

 Shojo Beat Manga

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Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

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The Story So Far...

First-year high school student Riso Koizumi is 5'7". She and Atsushi Ôtoni (5'1") are considered their class's lopsided comedy duo, and have so much in common that a "love fortune" machine tells them they're 100% compatible—but in fact all they do is bicker. Right now, they're competing over who can hook up with someone first, and Ôtoni's ex-girlfriend shows up and says that she has something to tell him! It looks like they might get back together, but it turns out that she has a new boyfriend, and all she wanted to tell Ôtoni was that his height wasn't the reason she had dumped him.

Meanwhile, Riso's childhood friend Haruka suddenly appears and starts going after her! He constantly puts down Ôtoni, who's always by Riso's side, and Riso for some reason finds herself defending him. When Haruka asks her if she's in love with Ôtoni, Riso gets very flustered...!

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* volumes 1 and 2, available at bookstores everywhere!!



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**LOVELY
COMPLEX**





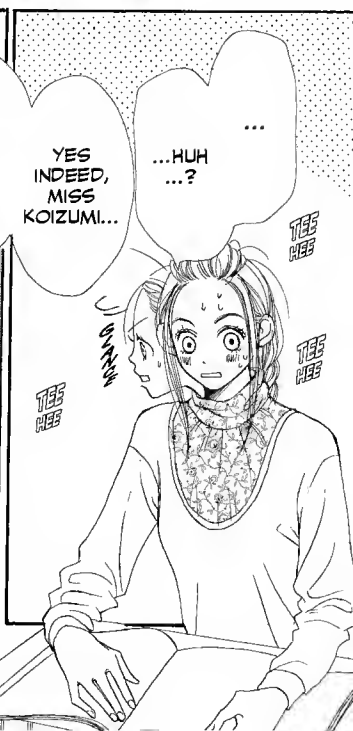
I
LOVE YOU.
GO OUT
WITH ME.

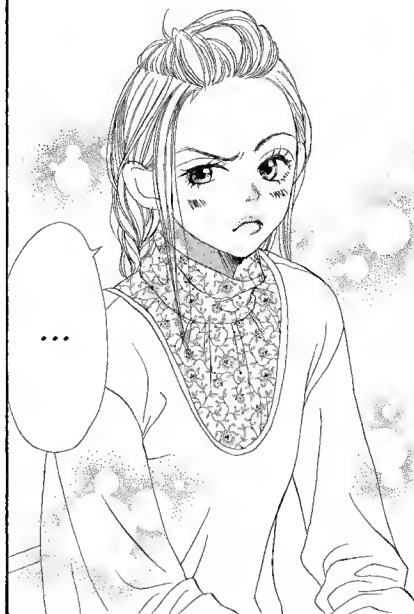
RISA.

KOIZUMI.

YOU
SEE...

...HAVING
YOU BE MY
GIRLFRIEND IS
THE CRUCIAL
PART OF MY
HIGH SCHOOL
GAME PLAN.
IT'S BEEN MY
DREAM SINCE
WAY BACK.





...



BUTT-
HEAD.



I'M A
MESS.

The
one who
said it.

...THINK
ABOUT
YOUR
ANSWER.

I'M GOING
TO ASK YOU
TO BE MY
GIRLFRIEND
REAL SOON,
SO...

THANKS
A LOT,
HARUKA.
WHY'D HE
HAVE TO
TELL ME
THAT?

LEAVE
ME
ALONE,
MUNCH-
KIN!!

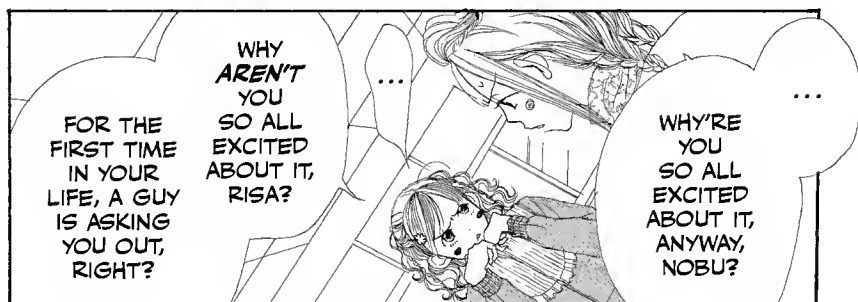
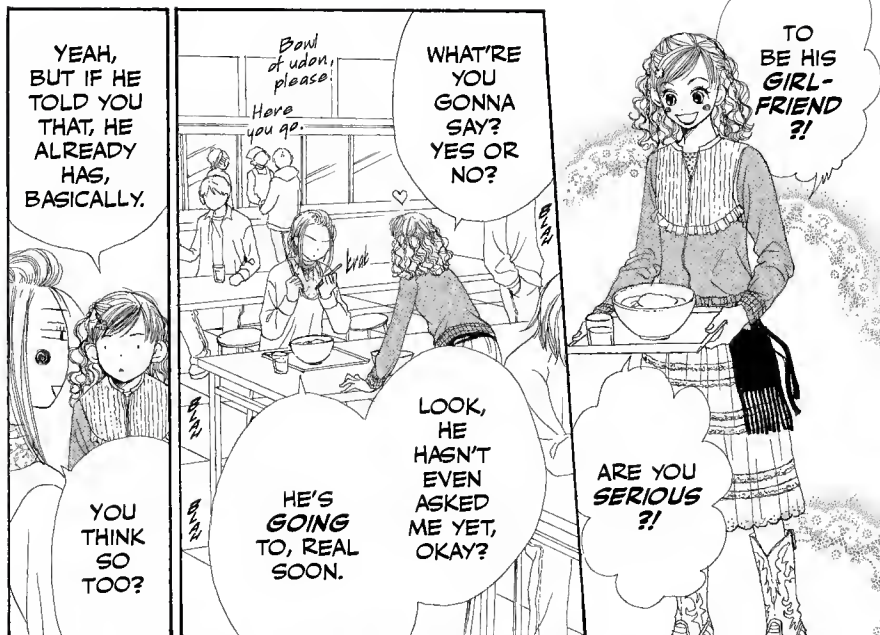
WHADJA
SAY?!

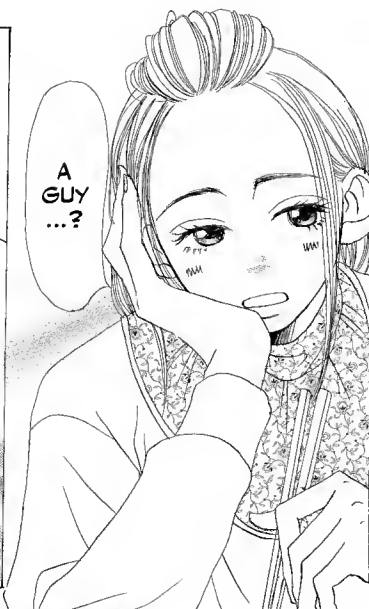
LEAVE
ME
ALONE,
MUNCH-
KIN!!

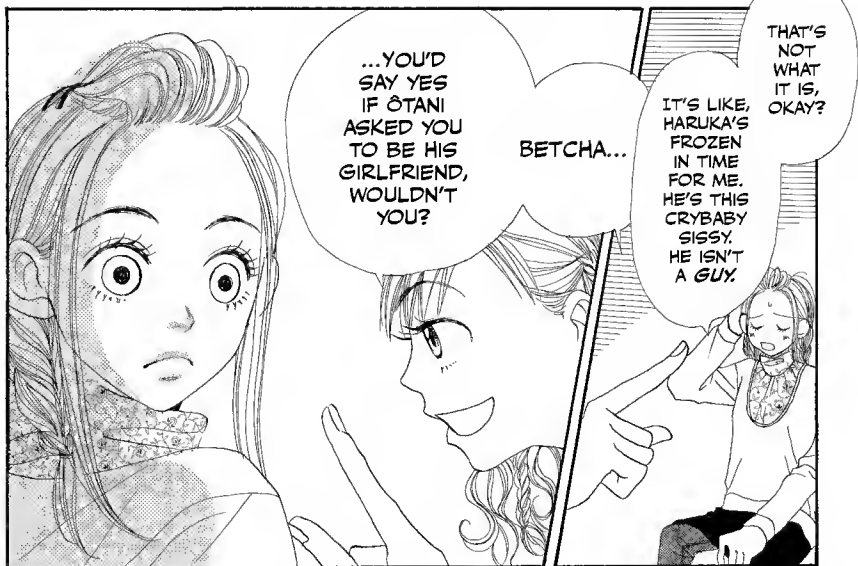
KLATTA'

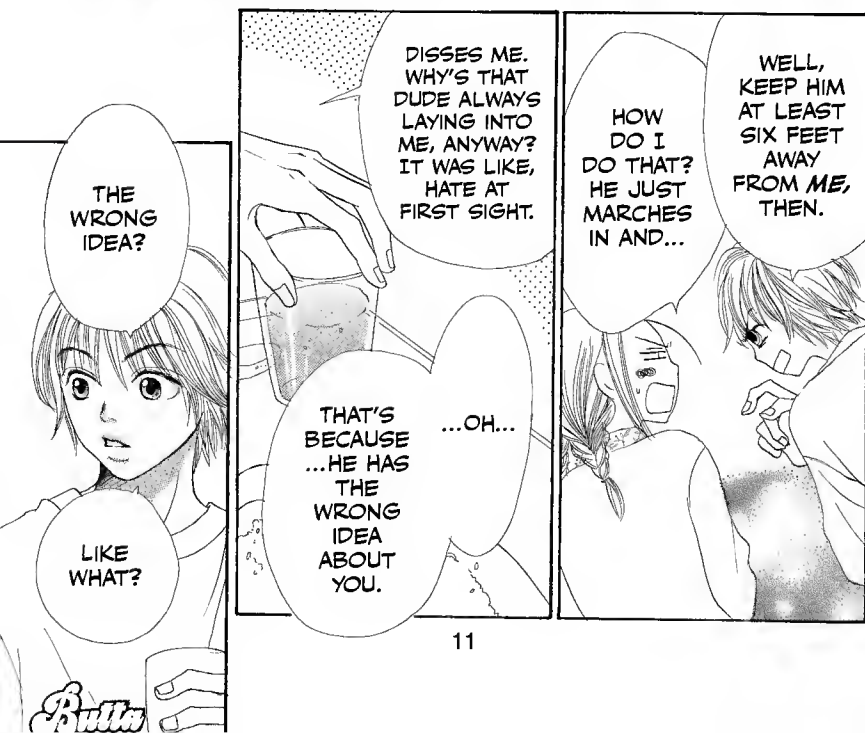
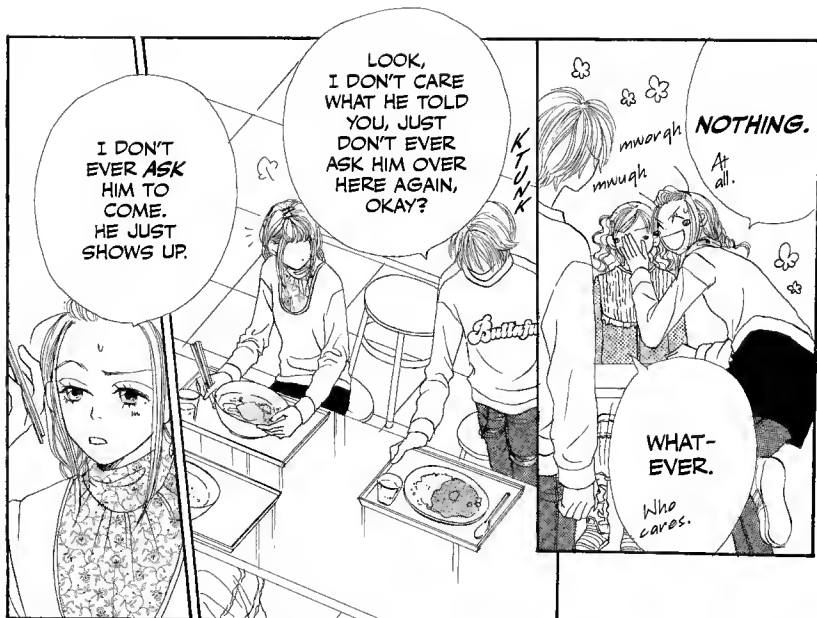
I'LL
SAY IT
AS MANY
TIMES AS
I WANT,
MUNCH-
KIN!

THAT
DIDN'T
MEAN
"SAY IT
AGAIN"!!







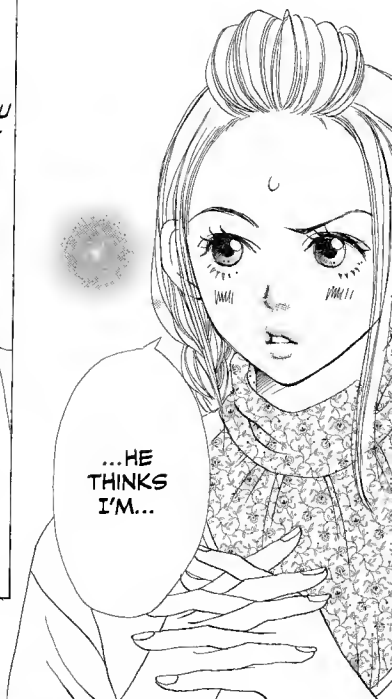




CAN I
ASK YOU
SOME-
THING,
RISA?



ARE YOU
IN LOVE
WITH THAT
SHRIMP?



...HE
THINKS
I'M...



...Hank...



NO WAY.

NO WAY!
NOOOO!
NOT IN A
MILLION
YEARS!

WHAT
THE
HECK IS
THIS ALL
ABOUT?!

WHY
THIS *TINY*
SHRIMP,
OF ALL
PEOPLE?!

I MEAN,
COME
ON!!
THERE'S
NO WAY!

HEY,
YOU'RE
REALLY
STARTING
TO PISS
ME OFF!!

WHAT
KILLS
YOU?!

WELL,
YEAH!
I MEAN,
YOU ARE
THE *LAST*
PERSON!
IT *KILLS*
ME!!

...
UMM...
SORRY,
I THINK
I'LL GO
HOME.

WANNA
HANG OUT
AND WAIT FOR
THE GUYS TO
GET OUT OF
BASKETBALL
PRACTICE?

I'VE GOT
A LOT OF
STUFF TO
THINK
ABOUT...

Bzzzz

WHY
WOULD I
GO AND
FALL IN
LOVE
WITH THIS
RUNT?

GIVE
ME A
MAJOR
BREAK.

You're
love with
that
shrimp?

You'd
say yes
if it was
Oran,
right?

R-I-S-A-A-A!

YOU
FORGOT
?!

*Poor
guy!*

DARN IT! I'D
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT THAT
FOR A SEC.

WHAT IS
WRONG
WITH
ME?

OH,
YEAH.

LIKE
WHAT
YOU'RE
GONNA
TELL
HARUKA.

HARUKA'S
THE ONE
I NEED
TO BE
THINKING
ABOUT.

I LOVE
YOU.
GO OUT
WITH ME.

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
ÔTANI
RIGHT
NOW?

OKAY.
SO.
WHAT DO
I SAY
WHEN HE
SAYS...

Hello.
Nakahara here.
We're up to Vol. 3.

I got another
year older over the
summer. It feels
like...with every
year I age, I lose
more and more
zing. You could
say I'm "mellowing,"
I suppose, but
that doesn't quite
seem to be it...
More like I'm
getting worn out...
Or dull and listless...
< sigh > umph...

And at the same
time, it kinda feels
like the manga
I'm drawing are
getting all hyper
for no reason.
< sigh > umph...

I'm starting to
enjoy the taste
of seaweed and
tofu these days...
chuwumf chuwumf

Gee, I really
ought a hustle
a little more...
< sigh > umph...

Back in the old
days, I used to have
the energy to fill
up every last corner
of these spaces...
< sigh > umph.





I'M SO GLAD I DRANK ALL THAT MILK. IT WAS WORTH IT!

I'M SO STOKED! I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD.

WOW, YOU'RE TAKING WHAT I SAID TO YOU SO SERIOUSLY.

...UH, YEAH, ACTUALLY.

YOU WERE?

UH... WELL... ACTUALLY...



IT'S A "LOVE FORTUNE" MACHINE!

RISA! LET'S STOP AND DO THIS!

HEY.

I REALLY NEED TO THINK ABOUT HARUKA NOW.

COME ON, LET'S GO!

I'LL WALK YOU HOME!

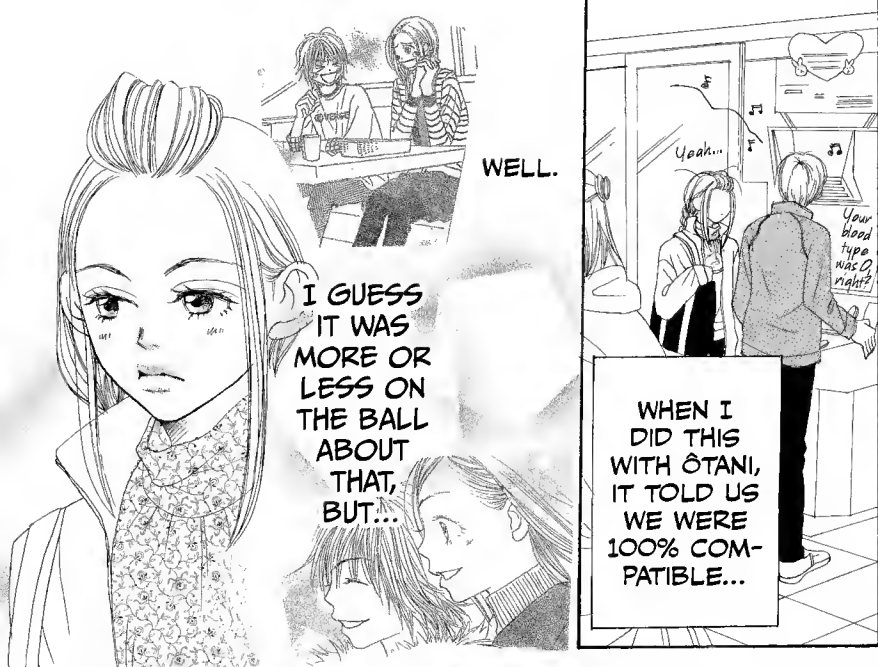
EH?

COME ON.

Uh...

OKAY.

Thanks.



WELL.

I GUESS
IT WAS
MORE OR
LESS ON
THE BALL
ABOUT
THAT,
BUT...

WHEN I
DID THIS
WITH ÔTANI,
IT TOLD US
WE WERE
100% COM-
PATIBLE...



ONLY
38%?!
THERE
IS NO
WAY!

W
H
A
A
A
T
?!

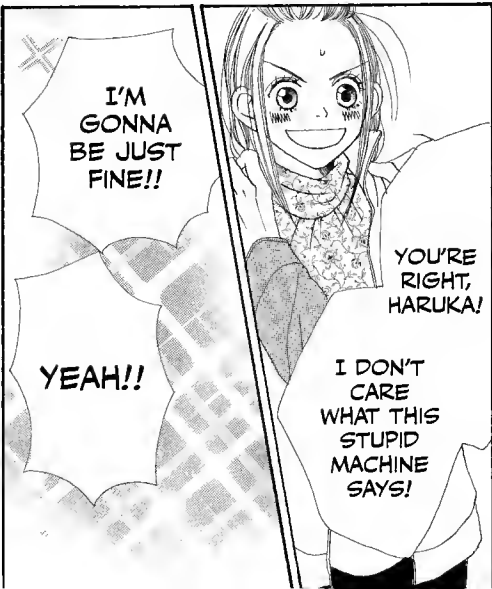
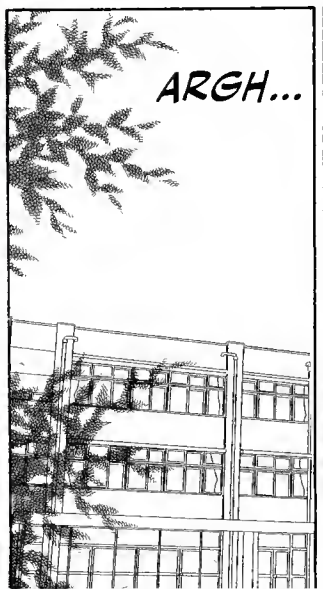
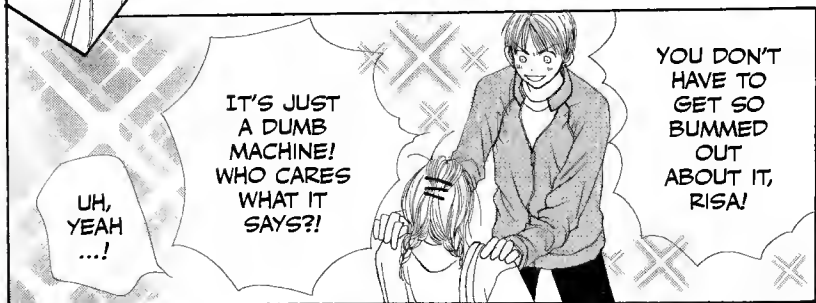
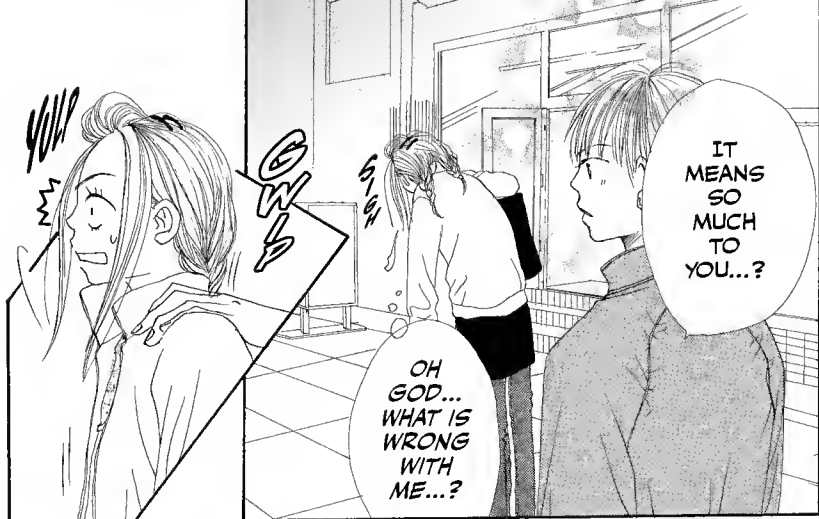
I AM
SICK OF
THIS
SUBJECT!!

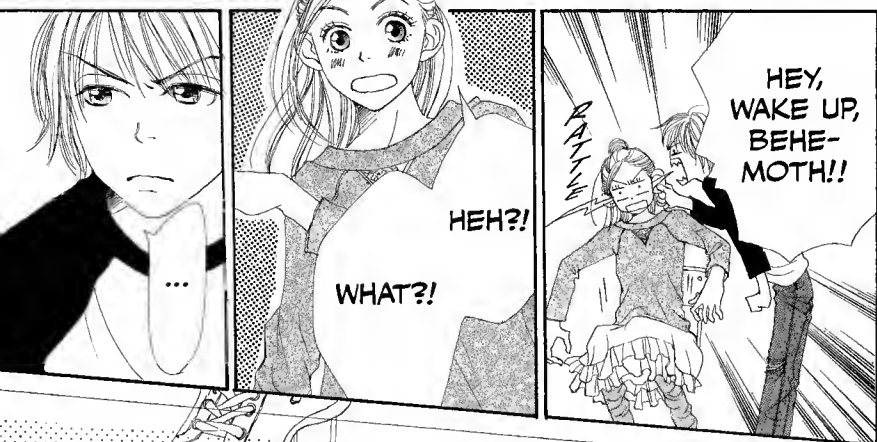
Argh!!

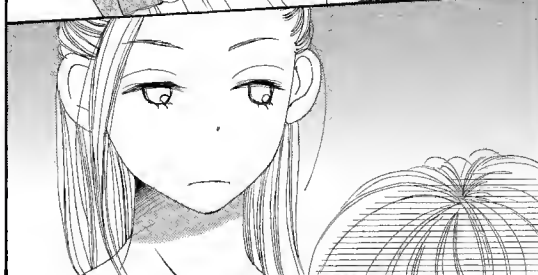


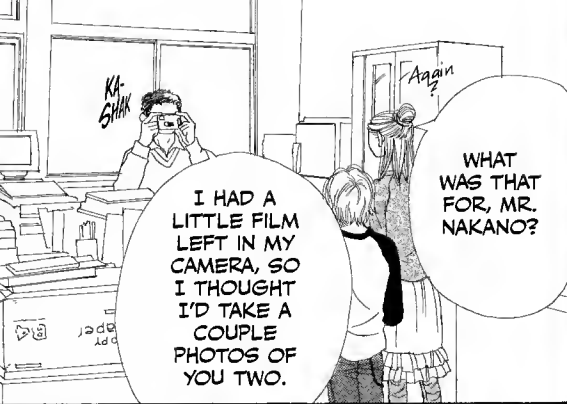
...RISA...

RIGHT,
RISA?







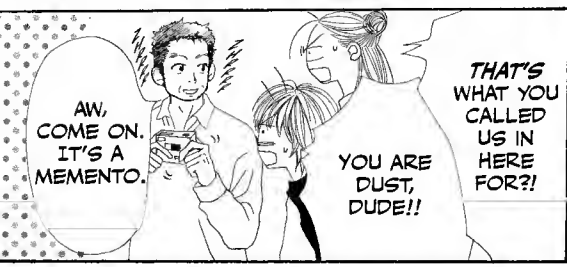


KA-SHAK

Again?

I HAD A LITTLE FILM LEFT IN MY CAMERA, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A COUPLE PHOTOS OF YOU TWO.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR, MR. NAKANO?



AW, COME ON. IT'S A MEMENTO.

YOU ARE DUST, DUDE!!

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALLED US IN HERE FOR?!

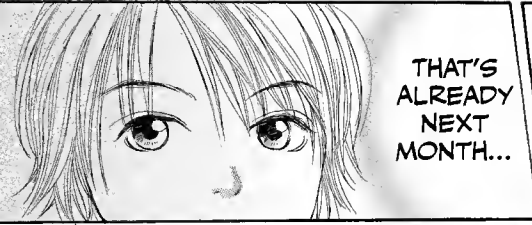


WE'RE HERE...

KA

ZZZ

SHAK



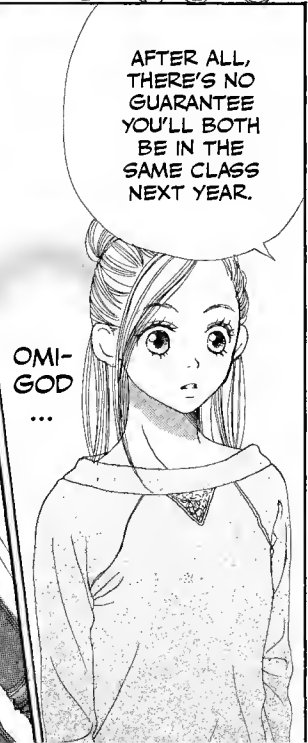
THAT'S ALREADY NEXT MONTH...



NOTHING ...

...

WHAT?



AFTER ALL, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE YOU'LL BOTH BE IN THE SAME CLASS NEXT YEAR.

OMI-GOD ...

I'M BEING
ASKED
OUT FOR
THE FIRST
TIME
EVER.

I'VE
GOT
OTHER
THINGS
TO THINK
ABOUT.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

I
DID IT
AGAIN.

SO HOW
COME I'M
THINKING
ABOUT
THIS
SHRIMP
ALL THE
TIME?

DOES
THIS
MEAN...

YEAH?

What
is it?

RISA!

HERE!

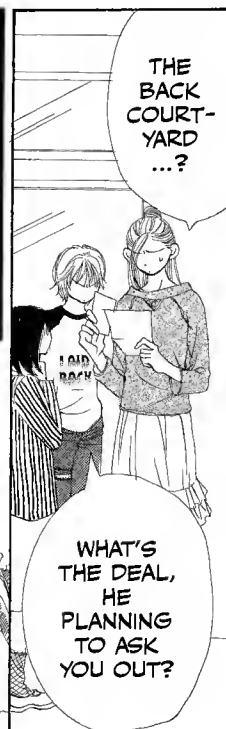
I
MIGHT
BE IN
LOVE
WITH
ÔTANI,
AFTER
ALL?



WONDER
WHAT
IT IS.

HARUKA JUST
SHOWED UP
IN THE CLASS-
ROOM AND
ASKED ME
TO GIVE THIS
TO YOU.

HARUKA?





WHY'D
YOU ASK
TO MEET
ME HERE,
OF ALL
PLACES...?



RISA!



I THOUGHT
IT WAS
KINDA MEAN
TO SAY
THAT AND
THEN LEAVE
YOU HANG-
ING, SO...

HEH
?!

B-BUT...
YOU SAID
THAT WAS
STILL...
SOMETIME
SOON...

LOOK,
I KNOW IT
WAS A BIG
SURPRISE
WHEN I
CAME
BACK SO
COOL AND
DREAMY.

AND AN
EVEN BIGGER
SURPRISE TO
HAVE THE NEW
ME SAY I WANT
YOU TO BE MY
GIRLFRIEND.



HEH?

IS THIS
FOR
REAL?

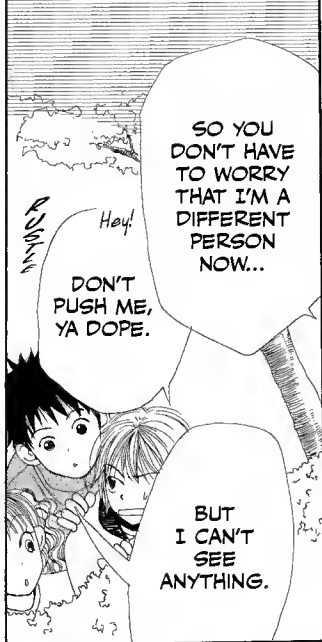


IT'S
FOR
REAL!

Heh?
IS
THIS
FOR
REAL
?

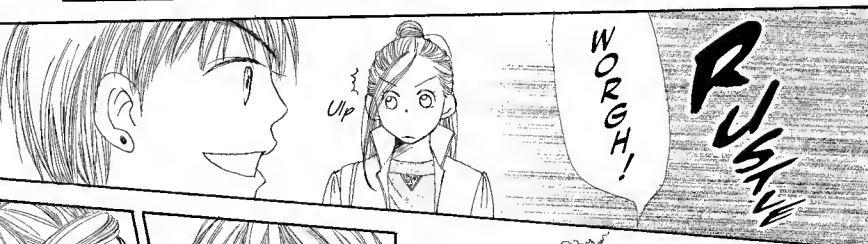


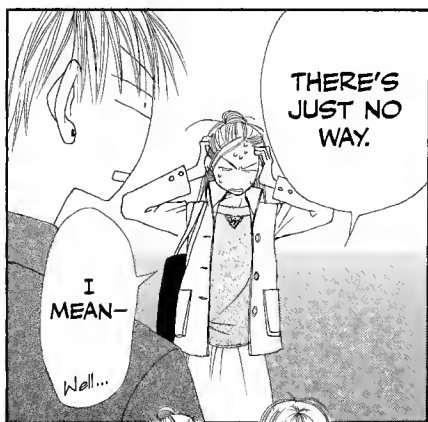
BECAUSE
THE BACK
COURTYARD IS
WHERE PEOPLE
TELL PEOPLE
THEY LOVE
THEM AND WANT
TO GO OUT
WITH THEM.
WHY ELSE?

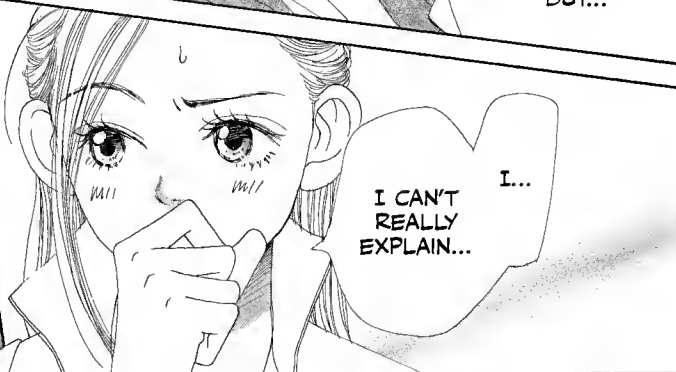


SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY THAT I'M A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW...

BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.









I
JUST
KNEW
IT!

YOU'RE
IN LOVE
WITH THIS
SHRIMP,
AREN'T
YOU?!

RISA!

HARUKA
?!



AND
GET MAD
WHEN
I SAY
ANYTHING
TO HIM!

YOU
ARE!
ALL YOU
DO IS
DEFEND
HIM!

UH...!

I...!



MORON.

BUT
THAT'S
...

NGH.



COME ON.
LOOK
AT US!

BUT
SHE...

WHY WOULD
SOMEONE
THIS BIG GET
THE HOTS
FOR SOME-
BODY MY
SIZE?

AS IF
KOIZUMI
WOULD EVER
BE IN LOVE
WITH ME.

YOU
GOTTA BE
CRAZY OR
SOME-
THING.



AND I
SURE DON'T
WANT A
JUMBO-GAL
LIKE *HER*,
EITHER.

RIGHT,
KOIZUMI?

LAD
BACK
HYPERION GAMES



RIIIISAAA!

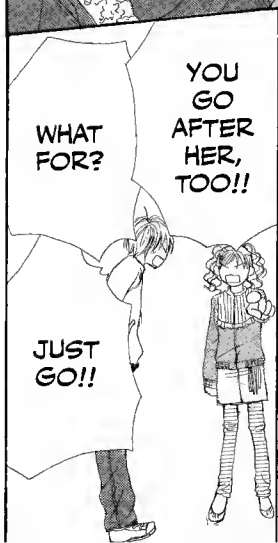
I'M
GOING
HOME.

HUH?



WHAT?

WHAT'D
I SAY?!



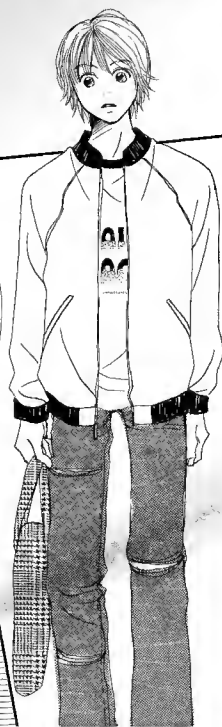
WHAT
FOR?

YOU
GO
AFTER
HER,
TOO!!

JUST
GO!!



...
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
WITH
HER?





"AND
I SURE
DON'T
WANT A
JUMBO-
GAL
LIKE HER,
EITHER."

"AS IF
KOIZUMI
WOULD
EVER BE
IN LOVE
WITH ME."

I DON'T
NEED
ANYBODY
TO TELL
ME THAT.

I
KNOW
THAT.

I KNOW IT'S
WEIRD FOR
SOMEONE AS
TALL AS ME
TO FALL FOR
SOMEBODY
AS SHORT
AS ÔTANI.

AND
I KNOW
THAT ÔTANI
WOULD
NEVER
EVER FALL
IN LOVE
WITH ME.

I
KNOW
ALL
THAT,
OKAY?



AND
THAT'S
WHY...

RISA...?

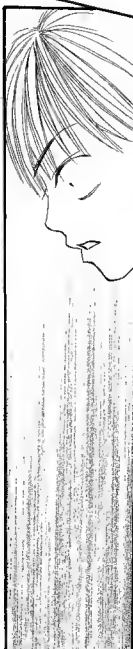
RISA?!

THAT'S
WHY HE'S
THE LAST
PERSON
I WANT
TO BE
IN LOVE
WITH.

SKWUSH

WHA...

WHAT'S
WRONG,
RISA?!





YOU'LL
DO GREAT,
RISA, I
KNOW IT!!
YOU'RE MY
HERO!!

I AM
NOT A
DOG
HANDLER!

SAVE
ME,
RISAAAA!

SYAAAAAGH!

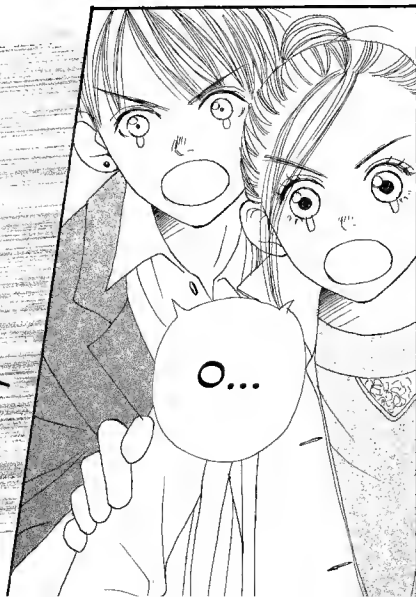
RARF
RARF
RARF

WHADDAYA
MEAN BY
"HERO,"
ANYW...

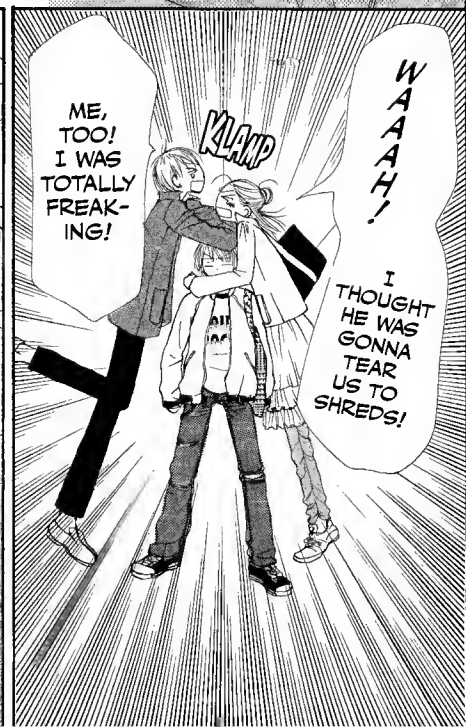
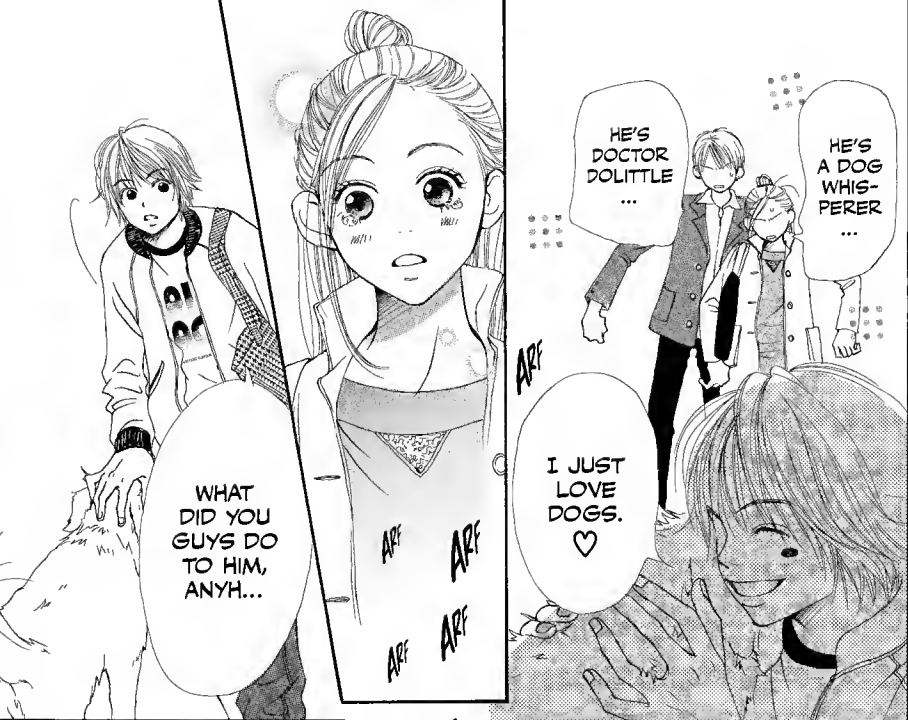
RARF
RARF
RARF



OTAN--!!









PNK

SHE'S
BEEN MY
HERO
SINCE
WE WERE
LITTLE!

THEY
SCARE
ME!
PLUS,
RISA
WAS
THERE!

YOU'RE A
GUY, RIGHT?!
SO ACT
LIKE ONE!
IT'S JUST A
DOG, FER
CRYIN' OUT
LOUD!

WHAT THE
HECK'RE
YOU
DOING?!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



HUH?!
THAT'S
WHY YOU
ASKED
HER TO
GO OUT
WITH
YOU?!

YEAH. 'CUZ
THEN SHE'LL
ALWAYS LOOK
OUT FOR ME,
LIKE BEFORE...

YOU
LOVE HER,
RIGHT?!
YOU WANT
HER TO
BE YOUR
GIRLFRIEND,
RIGHT?!



YOU IDIOT!
KOIZUMI'S
JUST BIG.
THAT'S ALL.
SHE'S NO
GOOD FOR
ANYTHING!

EXCUSE
ME?!



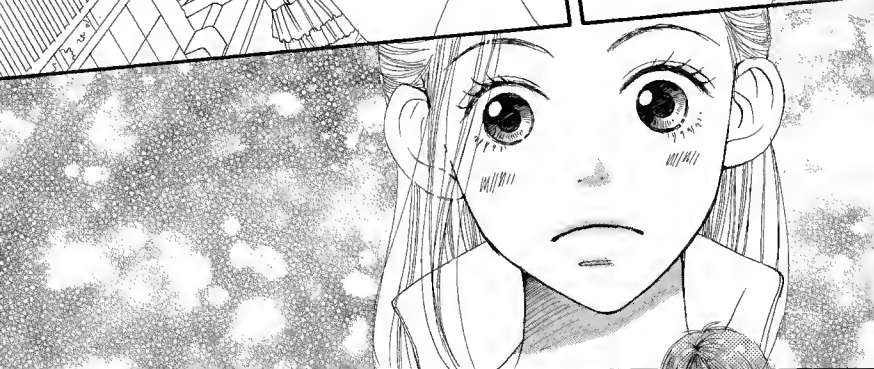
LOOK.
HARD TO
BELIEVE
SOME-
TIMES, BUT
KOIZUMI'S
A GIRL.

IF YOU
LOVE HER,
YOU GOTTA
TAKE CARE
OF HER!

WELL,
YEAH
...

DUDE!
A HERO
AND A
GIRLFRIEND
AREN'T
THE SAME
THING,
OKAY?!

A GUY
LOOKS
OUT FOR
HIS GIRL-
FRIEND,
NOT THE
OTHER WAY
AROUND!!



THAT'S
REALLY
RUDE.

HEY.
HARD
TO
BELIEVE
SOME-
TIMES
...?

...





WHAT'RE YOU SCREAMING ABOUT?

HE SCARES ME!!

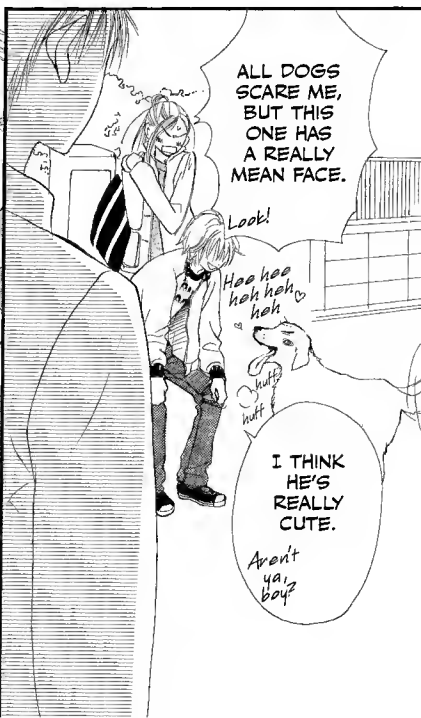


I SWEAR, YOU ARE ONE PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A...

'ARE/



Like how?



ALL DOGS SCARE ME, BUT THIS ONE HAS A REALLY MEAN FACE.

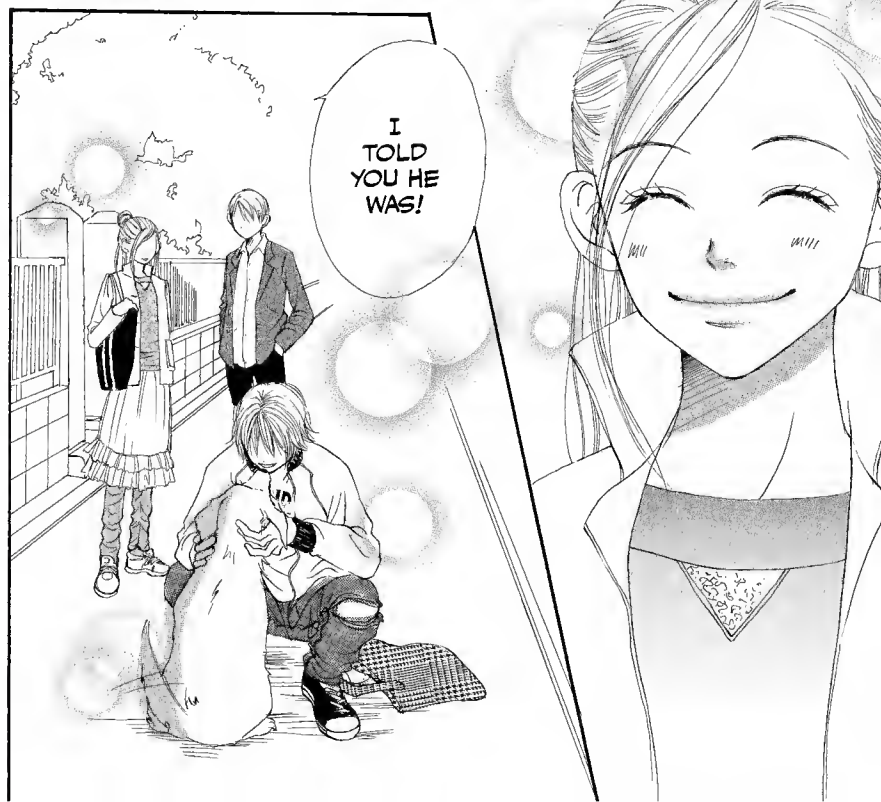
Look!

Hee hee heh heh heh

I THINK HE'S REALLY CUTE.

Aren't ya, boy?

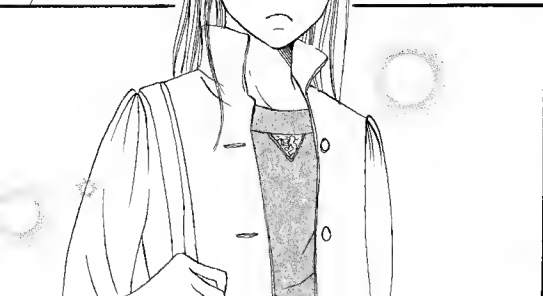






IS THAT
A YES?
HUH?

WELL, I
LOVE YOU
TOO, BOY!



OH
REALLY,
BUDDY?

YOU
LOVE ME?
YOU'RE CRAZY
ABOUT ME?

ARE

HERE WE
ARE, SAYING
HOW COOL HE
IS, AND THE GUY
DOESN'T EVEN
HEAR US.

Kinda
ruins
it.



BFF

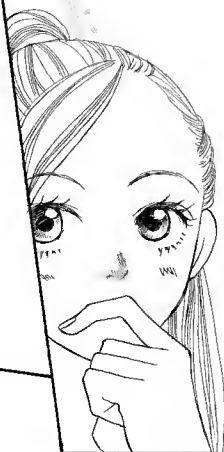
...

DOPE.

...I LOVED
HIM AND
WAS CRAZY
ABOUT
HIM...

IF I
SAID...

...



...I WONDER
WHAT HIS
REACTION
WOULD BE.

How
long's he
gonna
pet him?



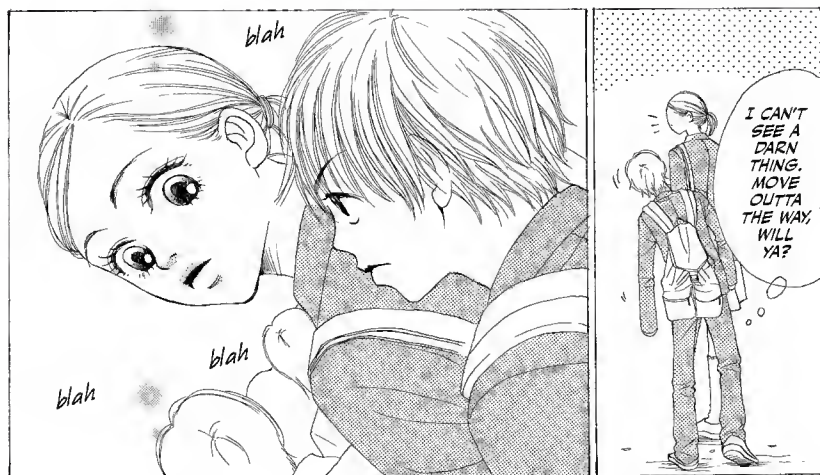
Hey
cutie.

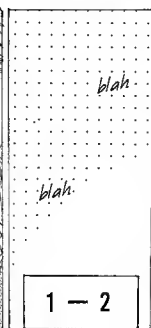
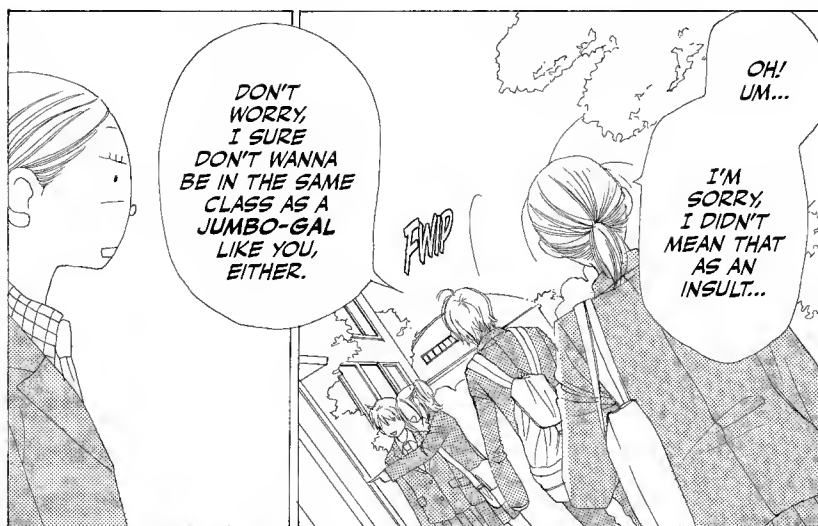
Oooh
yeah.

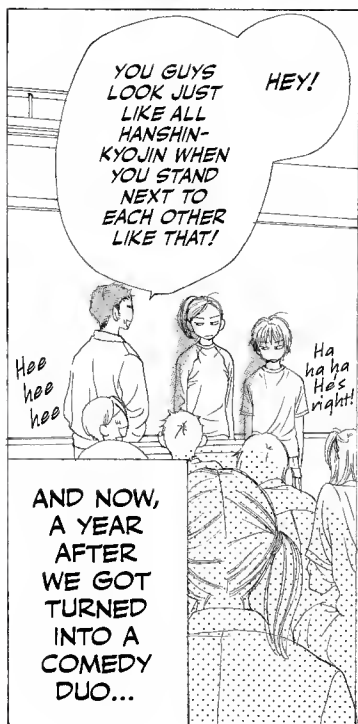


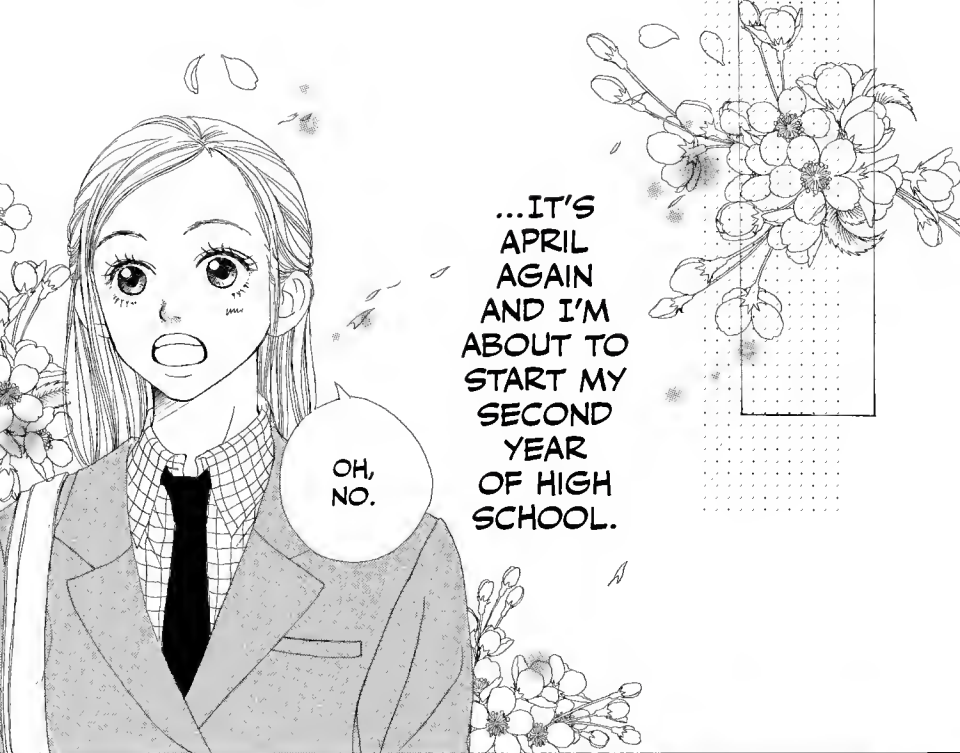


CHAPTER 10









...IT'S
APRIL
AGAIN
AND I'M
ABOUT TO
START MY
SECOND
YEAR
OF HIGH
SCHOOL.

OH,
NO.



OH!

IT'S NOT
SO BAD.
SUZUKI-
KUN'S
IN YOUR
CLASS,
CHIHARU.

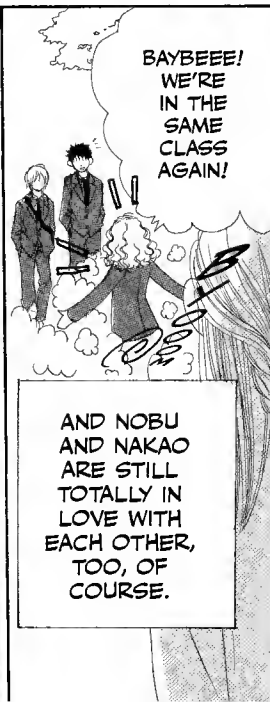
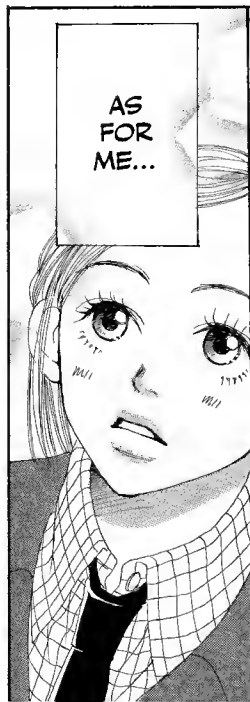
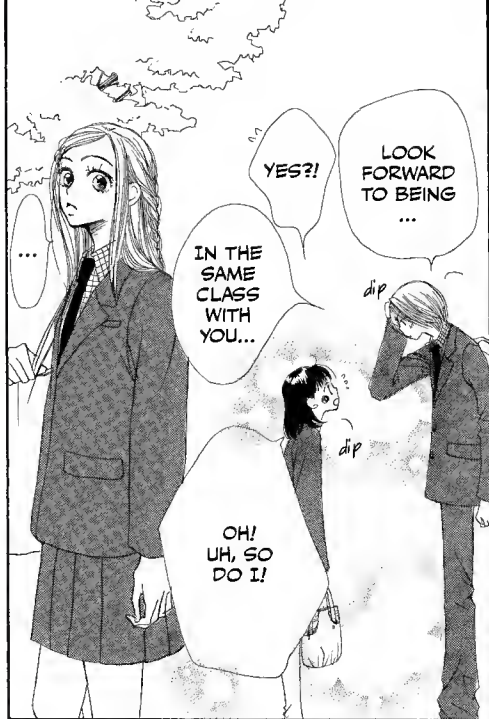
HE
IS?



BUMMER...
NOBU AND
I ARE
TOGETHER,
BUT YOU'RE IN
A DIFFERENT
CLASS,
CHIHARU...

W
H
A
A
A
T
?!

HEY!



YEAR TWO, CLASS THREE

Araki, Keisuke
Inoue, Hitoshi
Ôtani, Atsushi
Sakaki, Kôji

Ikebe, Yûki
Esaka, Kenji
Kodama, Takao
Shingaki, Motoaki

Ikebe, Nana
Idomoto, Yûko
Koizumi, Risa
Segawa, Nao
Tsuyama, Mako

Ishihara, Nobuko
Kakita, Ai
Satô, Reiko
Tasaki, Kazuko

WHAAAAT?!



THE
SOLUTION
IS SIMPLE,
MY DEAR
WATSON.
ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO IS
GROW A FEW
INCHES.

HOW'RE
WE EVER
GONNA GET
AWAY FROM
BEING ALL
HANSHIN-
KYOJIN...?



I'M
IN THE
SAME
CLASS
WITH YOU
AGAIN?!



OH YEAH?
WELL, I GOT
AN IDEA
FOR YOU,
SHERLOCK.





OH,
NO!!

KONG'S
OUR
HOMEROOM
TEACHER
AGAIN!

heh
heh
BETCHA
HE WAS
BEHIND
THIS!!

EXCEPT
THINGS
ARE A
LITTLE
DIFFERENT,
BECAUSE...

WELL,
I'M STILL
AT IT
WITH ÔTANI,
JUST LIKE
LAST YEAR.

YOU
SHRINK
A FEW
INCHES!!

DON'T
BE
STUPID,
YOU
DOPE!



SEE?

IT'S
REALLY
HARD
TO SAY.

HEY,
KOIZUMI.



LIKE,
MAYBE
I LIKE
HIM. A
LOT.

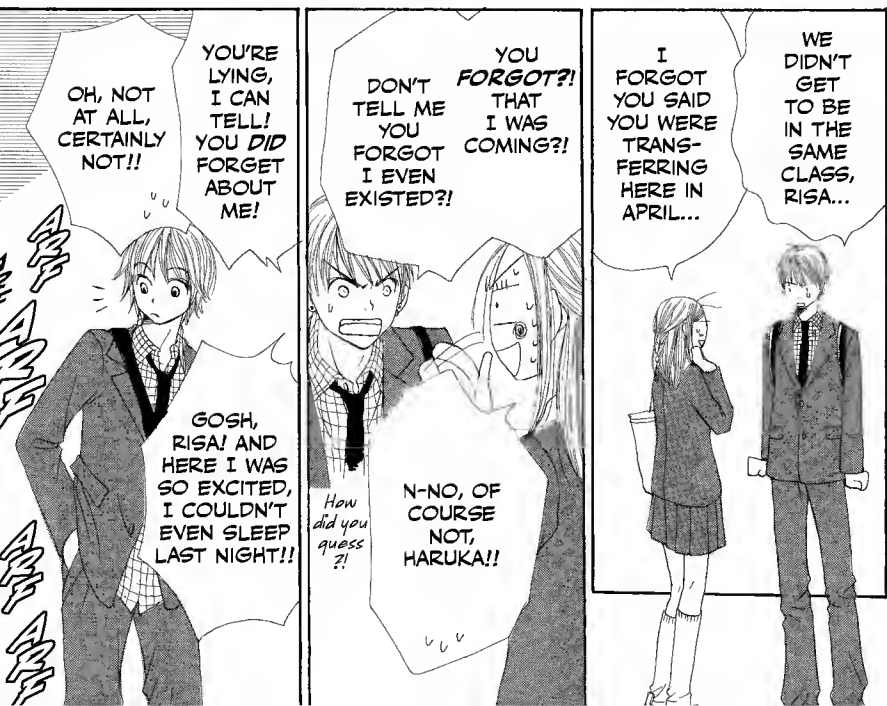
OR
MAYBE
I'M
TOTALLY
IN LOVE
WITH
HIM.

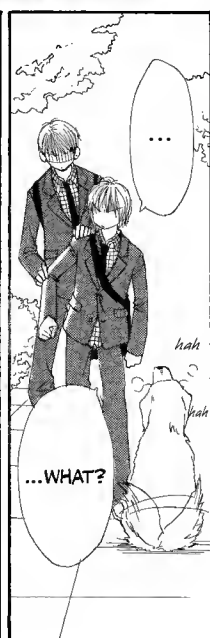
NO, NO.
NO WAY,
COME ON,
AS IF.



...ÔTANI
ISN'T MY
MORTAL
ENEMY
ANYMORE.

IT'S
HARD
TO SAY
WHAT
HE IS TO
ME NOW,
THOUGH...





RISA!
HURRY
UP, THE
START-
OF-TERM
CEREMONY'S
ABOUT TO
START!

SO,
YEAH...

OTANI!!!
HE'S
GONNA
BITE ME!

OTANI!!!
HE'S
GONNA
BITE ME!

NO
THANKS!!
DON'T BE
PASSING
STUFF LIKE
THAT ON TO
ME, YOU
DOPE!!

AH, THE
PASSING
OF AN
ERA.

I
HEREBY
PASS
ON THE
MANTLE
OF
HARUKA'S
HERO
TO YOU,
OTANI.

...THAT
I'M GOING
TO BE IN
THE SAME
CLASS WITH
HIM FOR
ANOTHER
YEAR.

BUT...

...I DO
KNOW...

HEY,
DON'T
JUST RUN
OFF LIKE
YOU GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
THIS!!

COMING!



I KNOW,
I WON'T.



HEAD
DOWN,
KOIZUMI.
DON'T
LOOK AT
KONG!

OKAY,
SO
LET'S
SEE...

...THAT'S
KIND OF
A BOTHER,
SO WHY
DON'T WE
JUST ELECT
OUR CLASS
REPS, AND
LEAVE THE
REST UP
TO THEM?

PRETTY SOON
WE'LL NEED TO
DECIDE WHO'S
GOING TO BE
IN CHARGE OF
WHAT AND ALL
THAT SORT OF
THING, BUT...



HANG
ON!!

I
AM!
ME
TOO!

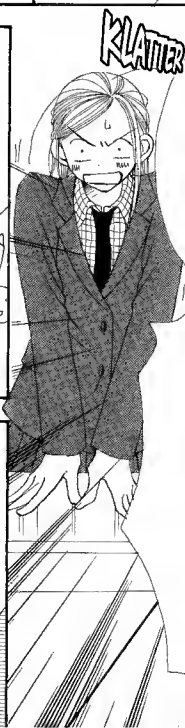
ALL
THOSE
IN
FAVOR,
HANDS
UP!

YOU
GUYYYS
?!



YOU
WON BY
A LAND-
SLIDE!

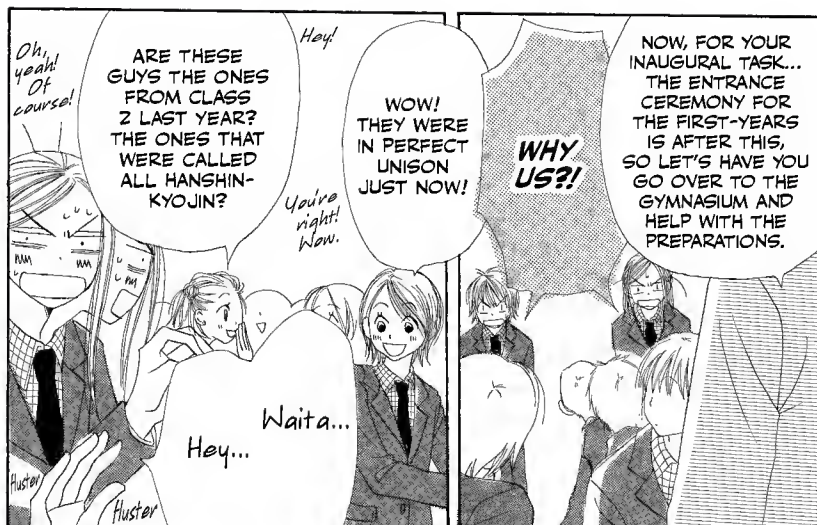
SO THAT'S
DECIDED!
CONGRATU-
LATIONS!

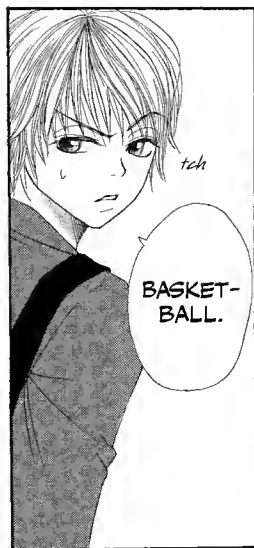


HOW ABOUT
KOIZUMI AND
ÔTANI, WHO
GET ALONG
SO WELL THEY
CAN CONVERSE
USING ONLY
EYE CONTACT?

WHY
US?!







BASKET-
BALL.



COMIN'!

GNIP

WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOING?



COME
ON,
ÔTANI,
LET'S
GO!



SORRY.

BUT I
MADE VARSITY
THIS YEAR.
I'M GONNA BE
PLAYING AS
A REGULAR
IN ALL OUR
GAMES.

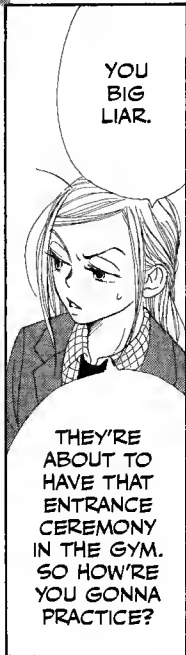


WHAT
ABOUT
THE
CERE-
MONY?!
YOU'RE
GONNA
BAIL?!

WE'RE
GOING
TO THE
PARK TO
PRACTICE,
ALL
RIGHT?!!

I DON'T
HAVE THE
TIME TO
HELP OUT
AT SOME
DUMB
CEREMONY
!!

WHY
NOT?!
IT'S
NOT
FAIR!



YOU
BIG
LIAR.

THEY'RE
ABOUT TO
HAVE THAT
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY
IN THE GYM.
SO HOW'RE
YOU GONNA
PRACTICE?

OH MY
GOSH.
WOW.

SHE
DOESN'T
NEED TO
KNOW
THAT.

SH

AND
GUESS
WHAT,
OTANI'S
THE ONLY
SECOND-
YEAR WHO
MADE IT!

WHICH
MEANS HE
ALMOST
DEFINITELY
MAKES
CAPTAIN
NEXT YEAR!

SHE
DOESN'T
NEED TO
KNOW
THAT.

SH

Byeump

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

YUP, HE
SURE IS.

COACH
ANNOUNCED
THE NEW
LINEUP OVER
SPRING
BREAK.



HE
SURE
LOOKS
HAPPY.

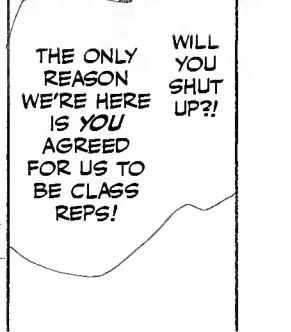
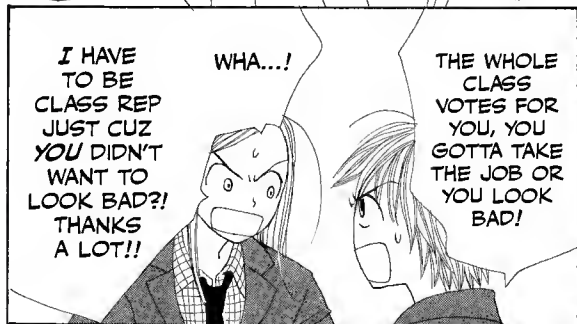
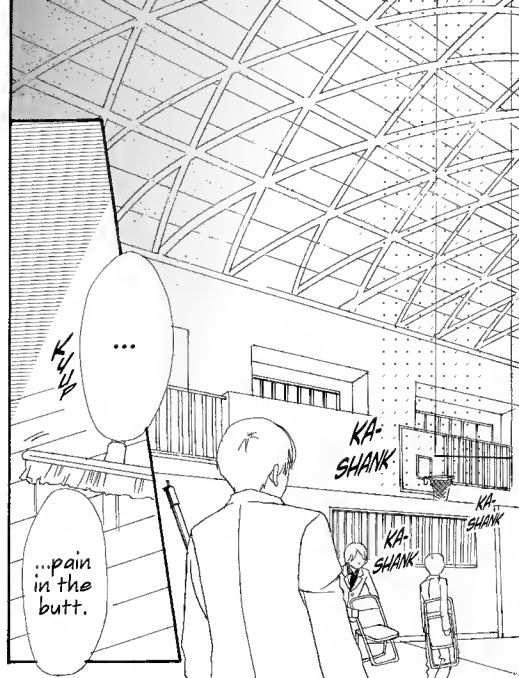


*heh
heh
heh*

*But
you
don't
mind
if she
does.*

WELL, I
KNOW HE
WORKED
REALLY
HARD TO
GET
THERE.





②

So anyway,
I turned 74 on July 28th.
Well that's a lie,
but that day, which
really was my birthday,
I did an autograph
session for the first
time in my life. When
it got decided that I
would do this, people
in my family said stuff
like "Who'd come to
something like that?
What'll you do if nobody
comes?," in other
words coming right
out and voicing my
deepest qualms, but
when the day arrived
a lot of people took
the time and trouble
to come. Thank you
so much! I'm not very
good at that kind of
thing so I was really
stiff and nervous, and
I'm sure I did all kinds
of things wrong, but I
was really happy that
I got to meet so many
of the people out there
who read my manga.
Thank you again for
coming.
Ikuemi-sensei and
Chiyo Morinaga and
Ayako Yoshimura came
and stood in line for my
autograph that day, too.
I sneaked a little poop
cartoon next to my
autograph for theirs.



THERE'S
ALREADY
A BUNCH
OF FIRST-
YEARS
MILLING
AROUND.

SEE
HOW NEW
THEIR
UNIFORMS
ARE?

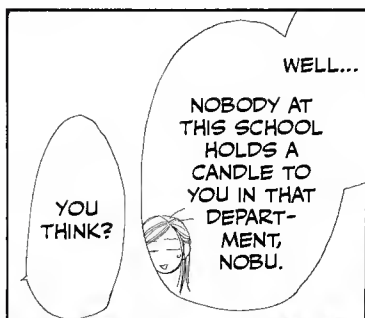
All crisp and
starched.



RISA.
YOU
GUYS
DONE?

SORRY,
NOBU,
WERE YOU
WAITING
FOR ME?

OH,
YEAH.



WELL...

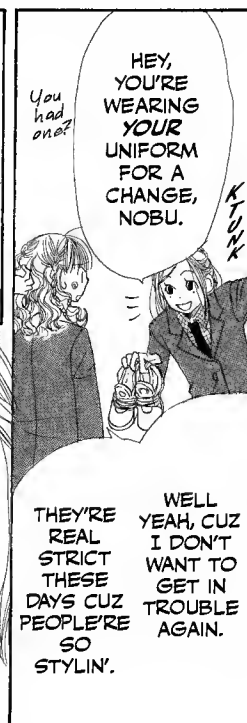
NOBODY AT
THIS SCHOOL
HOLDS A
CANDLE TO
YOU IN THAT
DEPART-
MENT,
NOBU.

YOU
THINK?



REMEMBER
HOW I TRIED
TO SPEAK
ENGLISH TO
YOU AT THE
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY
LAST YEAR?

OMIGOD,
THAT'S
RIGHT!
THAT WAS
SOOO
FUNNY!



HEY,
YOU'RE
WEARING
YOUR
UNIFORM
FOR A
CHANGE,
NOBU.

WELL
YEAH, CUZ
I DON'T
WANT TO
GET IN
TROUBLE
AGAIN.

THEY'RE
REAL
STRICT
THESE
DAYS CUZ
PEOPLE'RE
SO
STYLIN'.

You
had
one?



WELL
GOSH,
YOU SURE
DIDN'T
LOOK
LIKE IT.

LIKE,
EXCUSE
ME, I'M A
HUNDRED
PERCENT
JAPANESE?



NICE CHOO
MEECHOO?

...HELLO
...>



※ Nobu



YES,
MA'AM,
I DID
KNOW
THAT.

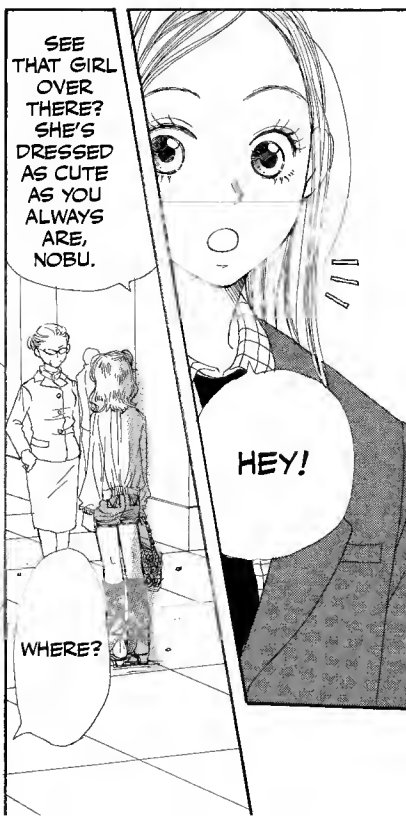
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
WEAR YOUR
UNIFORM FOR
THE ENTRANCE
CEREMONY.
DIDN'T YOU
KNOW THAT?

ARE YOU
A NEW
STUDENT
HERE?



AND THEN,
SINCE I
BOUGHT IT,
I JUST **HAD**
TO WEAR
IT TODAY!
I'M REALLY
SORRY,
MA'AM.

BUT I
FOUND THIS
ADORABLE
BLOUSE
YESTERDAY,
AND I
JUST HAD
TO BUY IT.



SEE
THAT GIRL
OVER
THERE?
SHE'S
DRESSED
AS CUTE
AS YOU
ALWAYS
ARE,
NOBU.

HEY!

WHERE?



NOBU?
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

QUITE
THE LITTLE
FASHIONISTA,
ISN'T SHE?



THAT IS
BESIDE
THE POINT,
YOUNG
LADY!!

POOR KID,
GETTING
YELLED AT
ON HER
FIRST DAY
HERE...



IF YOU
WERE
REALLY
SORRY,
YOU
WOULDN'T
BE
WEARING
IT.

BUT
ISN'T
IT THE
CUTEST?



WHAT
WAS
THAT,
YOUNG
LADY?!

I
DRESS
THE
CUTEST
AT THIS
SCHOOL!

HUH?



SO I WANT
TO WEAR
THEM WHILE
I CAN,
BEFORE I
GET TOO
OLD AND
SHRIVELED
UP-



WHEN
PEOPLE
GET TO BE
YOUR AGE,
THEY CAN'T
WEAR CUTE
CLOTHES
LIKE THESE,
RIGHT,
MA'AM?



WELL,
GOSH,
YOU
KNOW?



A
FIGHT!!

SHE'S
IN BIG
TROUBLE.

WHO'S
OLD AND
SHRIVELED
UP?!

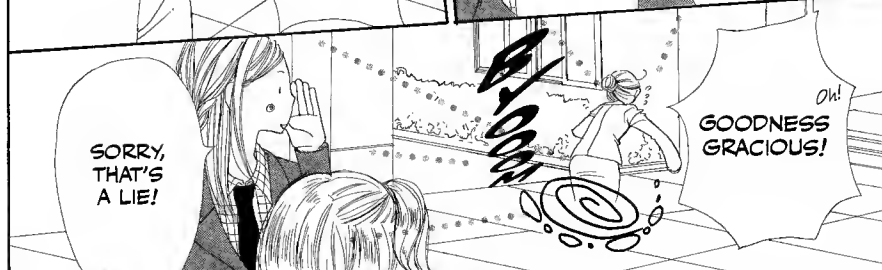


THERE'S A
HUGE FIGHT
GOING
ON OVER
THERE!!
SOMEBODY
STOP IT!!

WHAT?!

UH-
OH!

OH,
I DIDN'T
MEAN YOU
PERSONALLY,
MA'AM-



SORRY,
THAT'S
A LIE!

Oh!
GOODNESS
GRACIOUS!



GOSH,
THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

YOU
MADE
THAT
FIGHT
UP TO
HELP ME
OUT?!

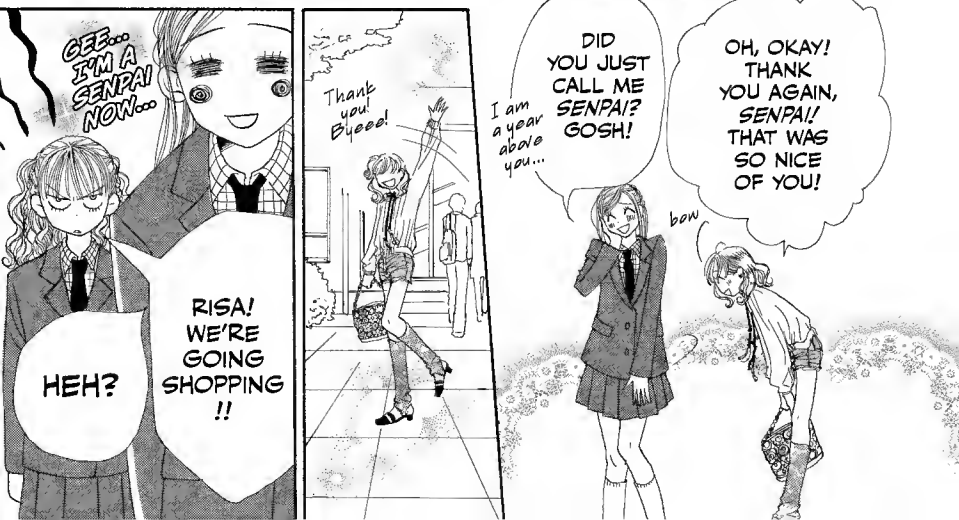
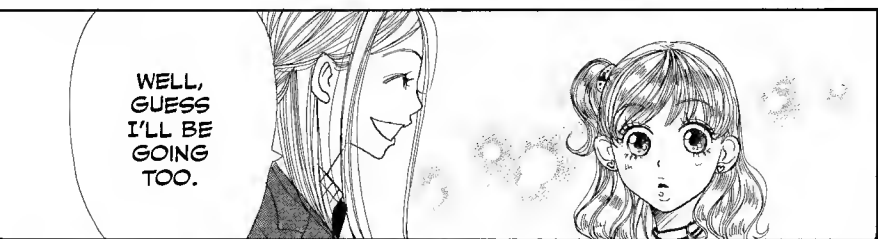
YOU
BETTER
WATCH
YOUR STEP
AROUND
THAT
TEACHER.

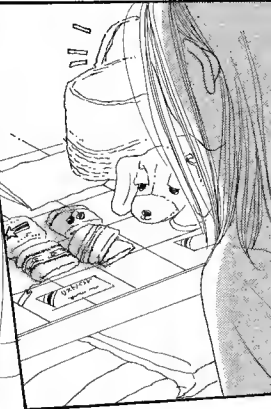
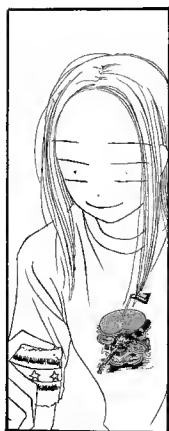
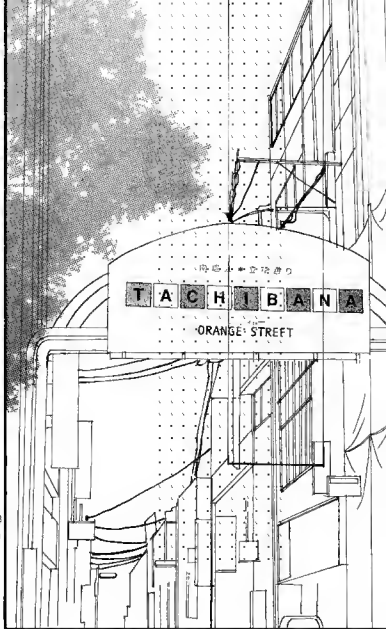
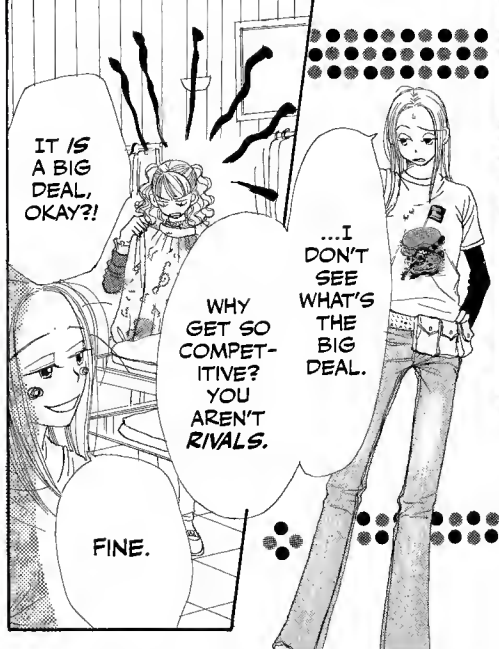
YEAH.

A
LIE?

SHE CAN
STAY ON
YOUR CASE
FOR LIKE,
A WHOLE
HOUR.







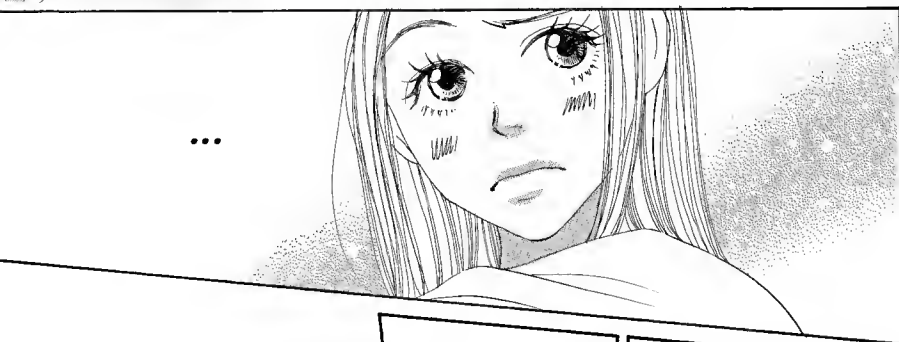


"I MADE
VARSITY
THIS YEAR.
I'M GONNA
BE PLAYING
AS A
REGULAR IN
ALL OUR
GAMES."



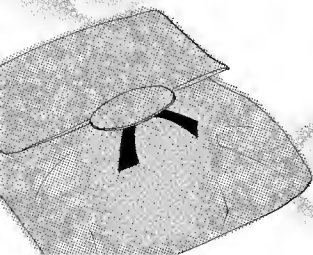
GET
OUTTA
HERE!!

SO?!
LIKE I'M
GONNA
BUY
IT FOR
HIM?!



...

NOTHING
STRANGE
ABOUT
GETTING
HIM A LITTLE
GIFT TO
CELEBRATE,
RIGHT?



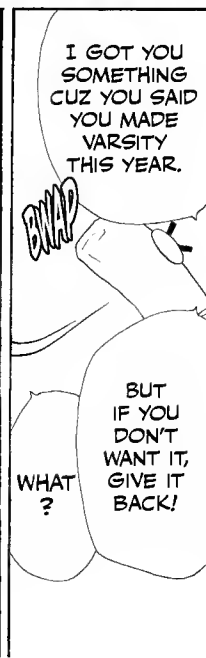
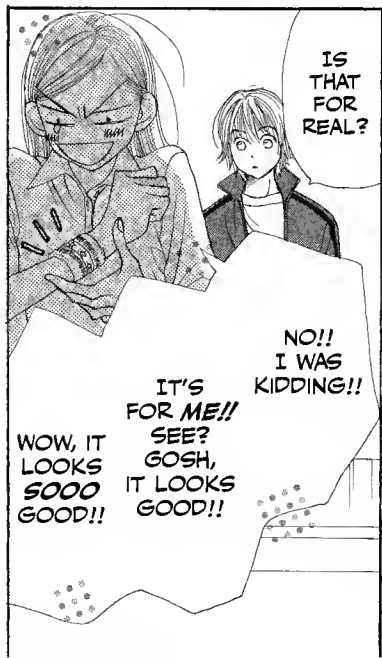
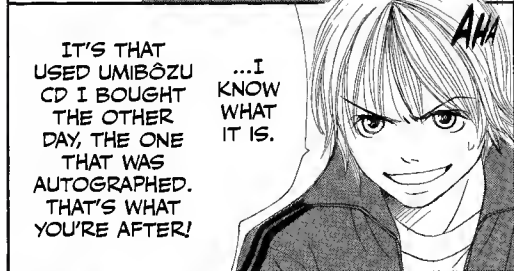
K
R
E
E

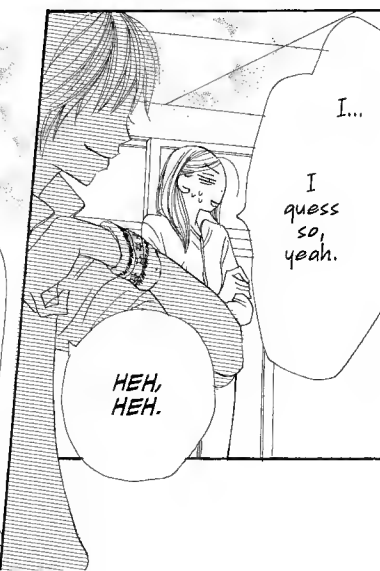
THANK
YOU.
HAVE
A NICE
DAY!



HMM-
MMM...

...WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?





WHY DO I HAVE
TO TURN THE
SIMPLE ACT OF
GIVING HIM A
GIFT INTO THIS
BIG PRODUCTION?
WHY CAN'T I BE
NICE AND SWEET,
FOR ONCE?

YEAH
...!

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
CAME
OVER
ME!

YOU GOT
ME A
PRESENT.
THAT'S
TOTALLY
INSANE.

Now

...WHY
?!

IT'S LIKE,
I WANT
TO BE A
LITTLE
CUTER, YOU
KNOW?

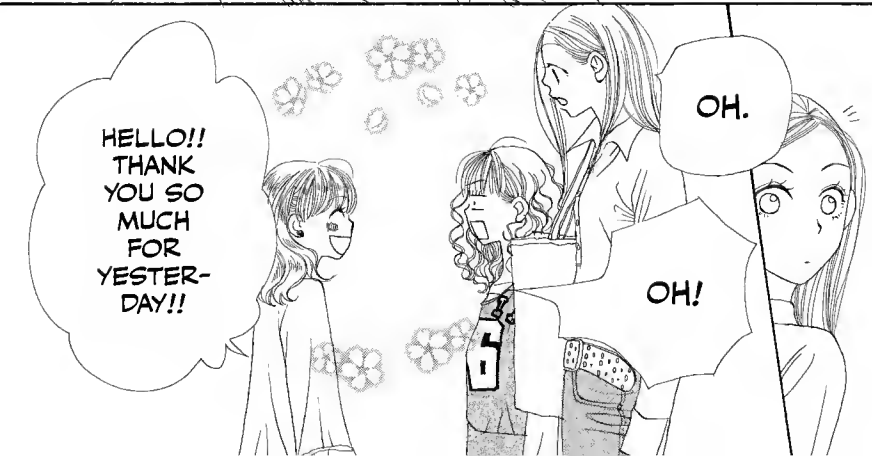
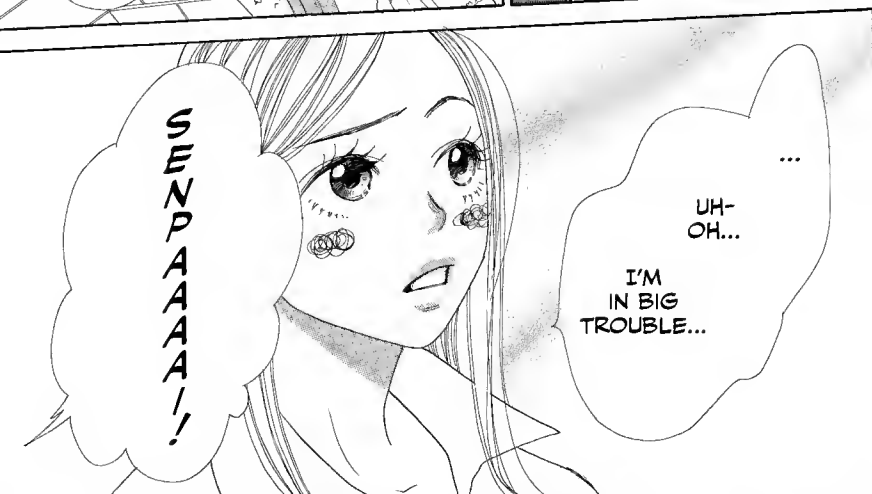
I
DON'T
KNOW...

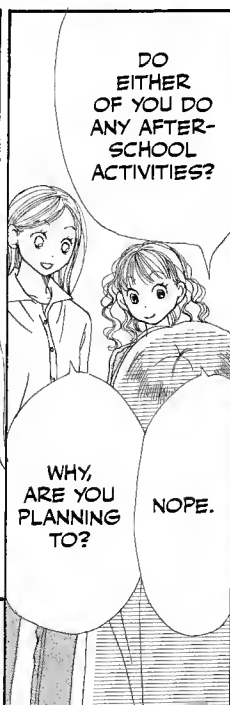
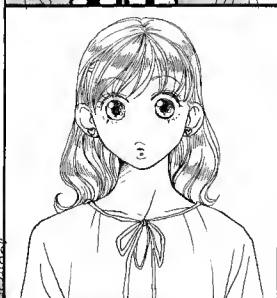
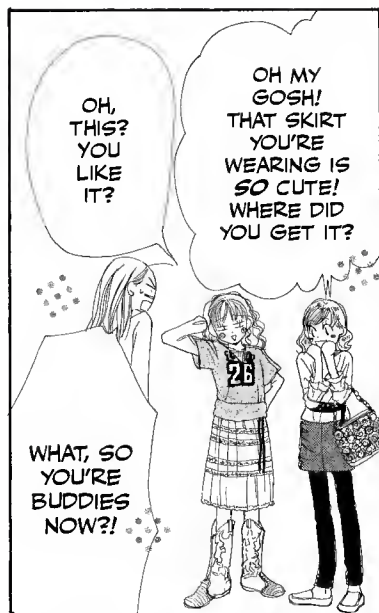
I'M ALWAYS
BLAMING
MY HEIGHT,
WHEN
ACTUALLY
IT'S MY
PERSONALITY.

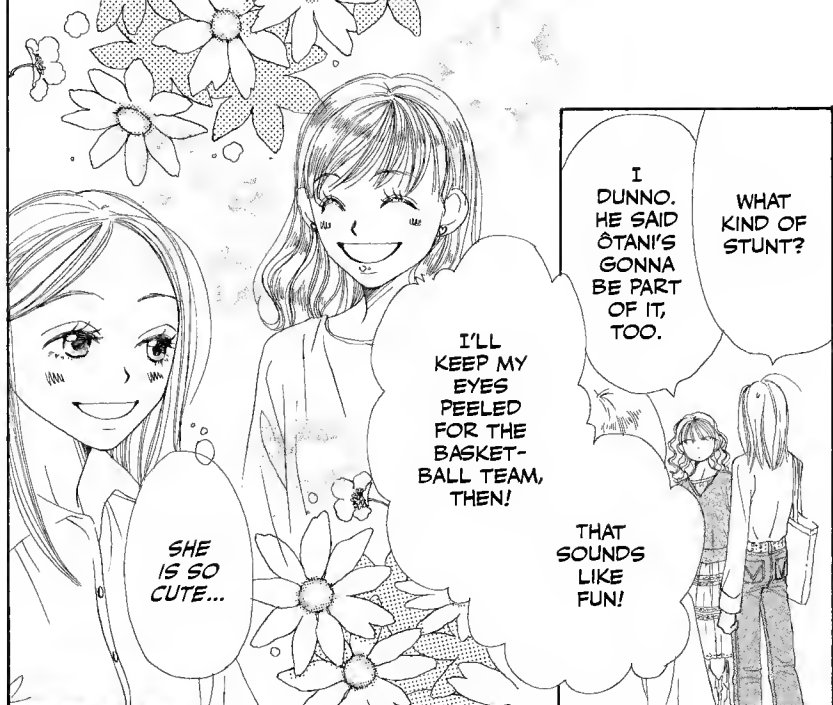
HEH?

YOU KNOW
WHAT MY
PROBLEM
IS?

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
WITH
YOU?







SHE
IS SO
CUTE...

I'LL
KEEP MY
EYES
PEELED
FOR THE
BASKET-
BALL TEAM,
THEN!

I
DUNNO.
HE SAID
ÔTANI'S
GONNA
BE PART
OF IT,
TOO.

WHAT
KIND OF
STUNT?

THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE
FUN!

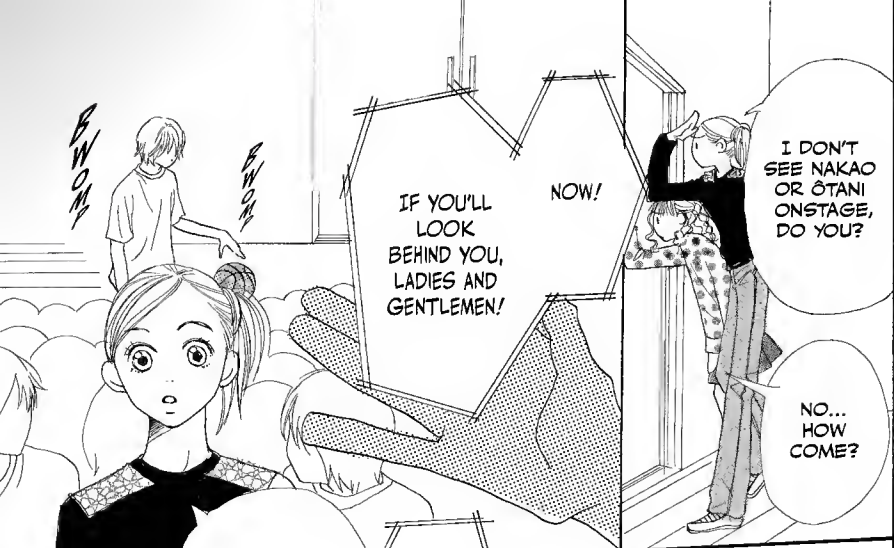
THE
GODS
ARE
SUCH
TOTAL
MEANIES.

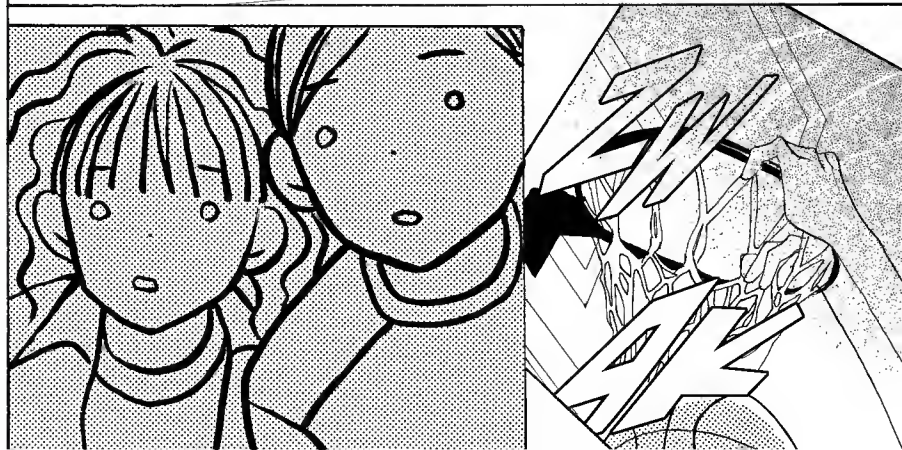
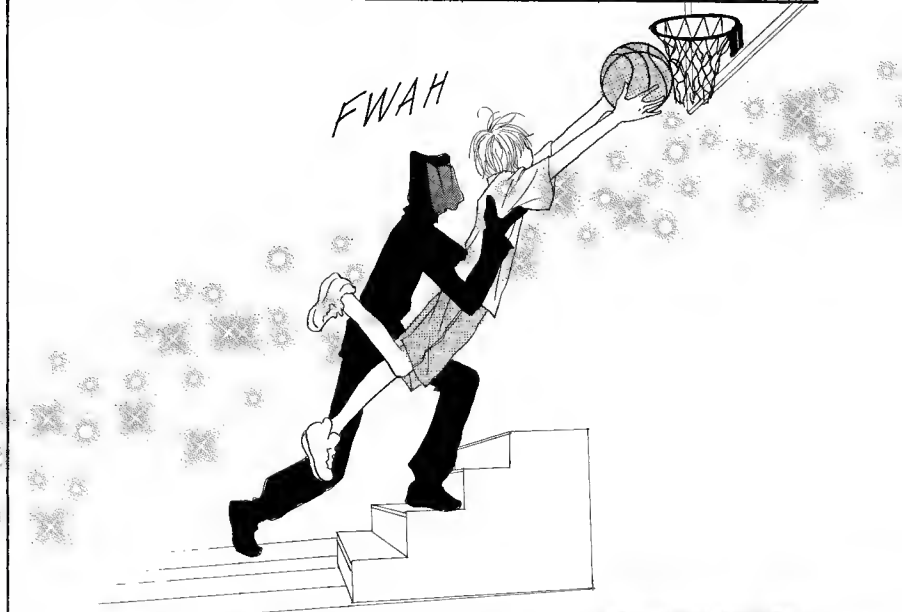
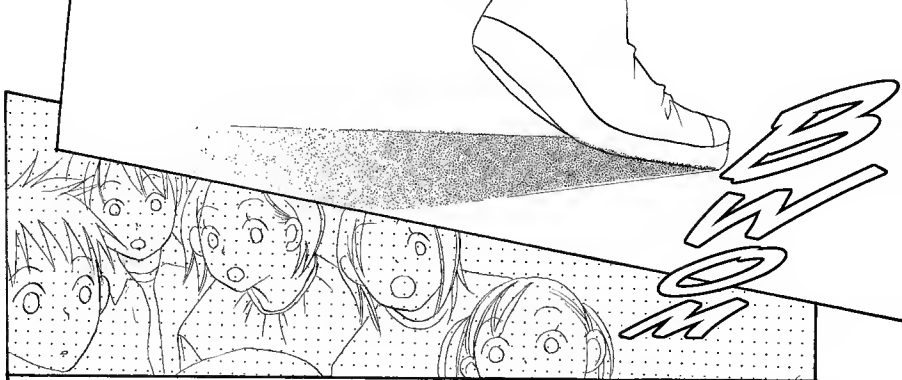
WHEN
THERE
ARE
GIRLS
THIS
CUTE OUT
THERE...

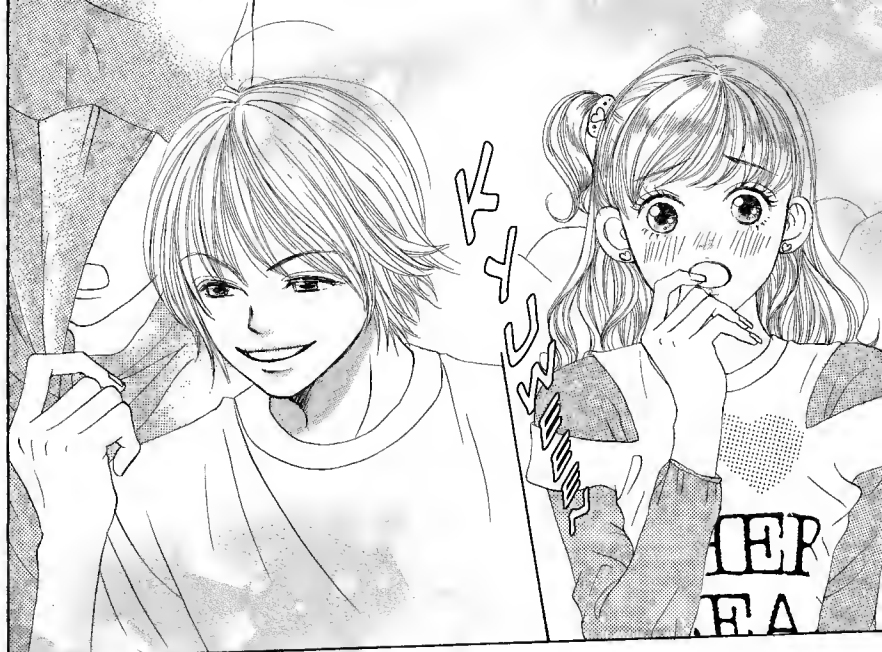
...HOW
COME I
GOTTA
BE LIKE
THIS?

Like
this.









OUR COACH
IS SUCH A
HARD-ASS,
EVERYBODY
KEEPS
QUITTING.

WE'RE
DESPERATE
FOR NEW
PEOPLE,
OKAY?

Gotta
grab 'em
while we
can.

It was
actually
pretty
fun.

No it
wasn't.

WELL,
THAT'S
JUST
TOO
BAD.

LOOK
AT POOR
NOBU. SHE'S
TOTALLY
TRAUMATIZED
BY WHAT A
DORK HER
BOYFRIEND
WAS.

WHYDJA
HAVE TO
COME
WATCH IT?



AND YOU
THINK A
PATHETIC
STUNT LIKE
THAT IS
GOING TO
GET PEOPLE
TO JOIN...?

WHO
SAYS IT
WAS
PATHETIC??!



ARE YOU
FRIENDS
WITH THIS
PERSON?

YES,
AND UH!
UM! UM,
SENPAI?!



DID YOU
CATCH THE
BASKET-
BALL
TEAM...?




OH,
HI.



OH,
YOU'RE
CLASS-
MATES?



YOU
DIE!!



WHO,
THIS SHRIMP?
I GUESS SO,
YEAH. THOUGH
I'M SICK AND
TIRED OF SEEING
HIM EVERY DAY,
WHICH I HAVE TO
SINCE WE'RE
CLASSMATES.



THAT
DUNK YOU
DID AT THE
ASSEMBLY
WAS
SUPER-
COOL!!



UMM!



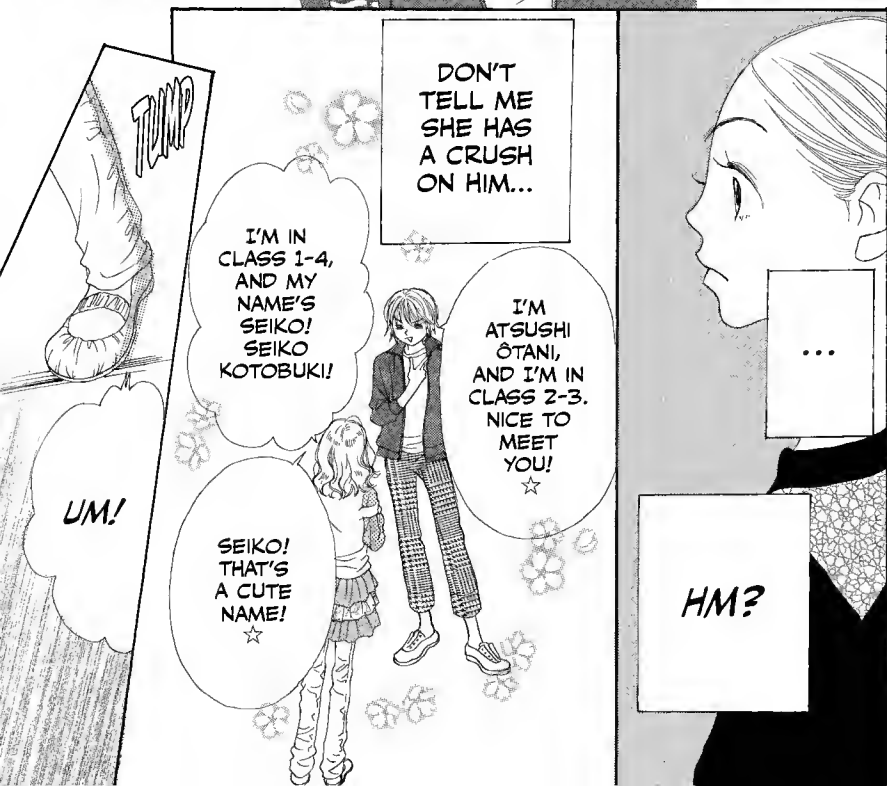
YEAH.
WE MET
THE FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL.

I LOVE
HOW SHE
ALWAYS
CALLS ME
"SENPAI."



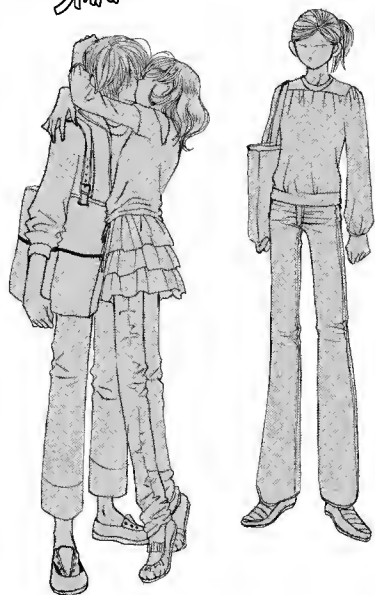
WHO
IS SHE,
A FRESH-
MAN?

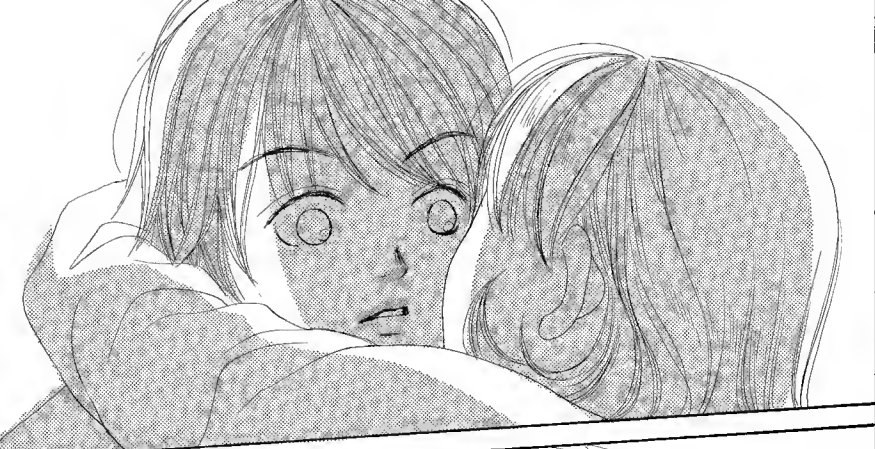
YOU WERE
TALKING TO
HER THE
OTHER DAY
TOO,
WEREN'T
YOU?





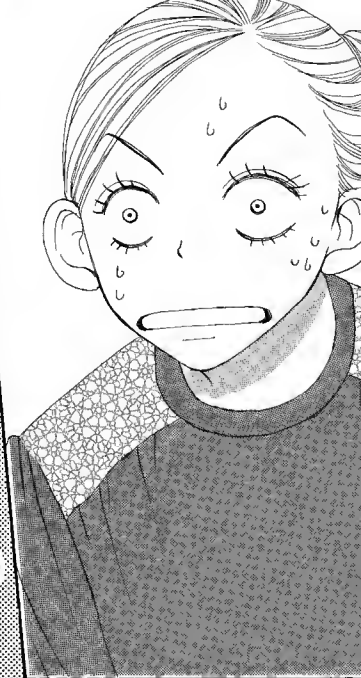
SMACK







OH
MY
GOD
?!!









OH, NO.
ARE YOU
MAD AT
ME?!

HUH?



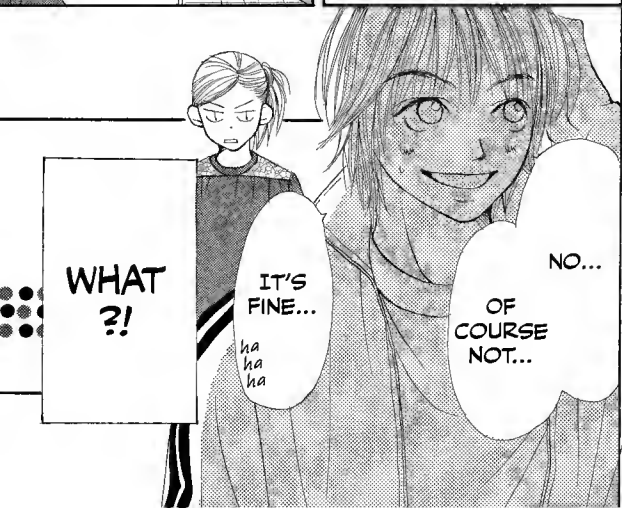
I...
SOMETHING
JUST CAME
OVER ME,
AND... I
HARDLY EVEN
KNEW WHAT I
WAS DOING...

OH MY
GOSH,
I'M SO
SORRY!



UMMM...

OOPS!



WHAT
?!

IT'S
FINE...

ha
ha
ha

NO...

OF
COURSE
NOT...



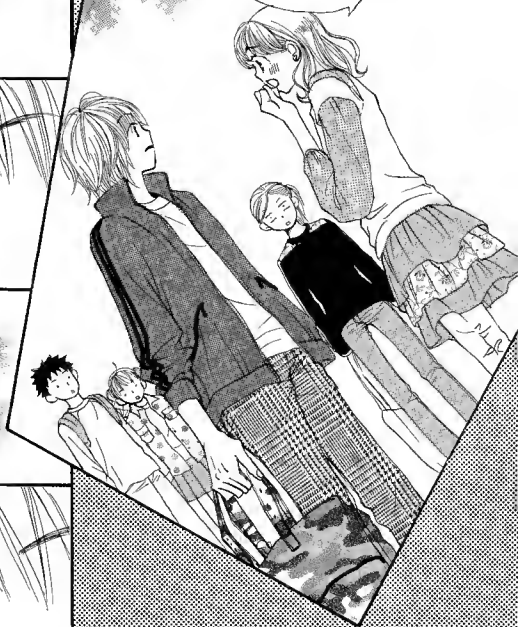
HUH?



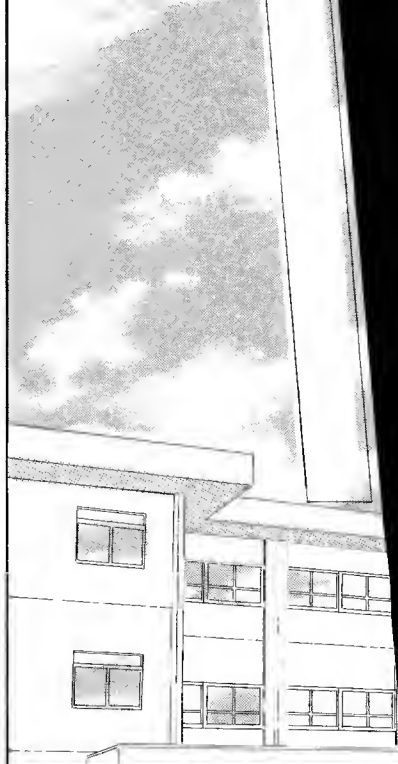
UM... I'LL
TRY REALLY
HARD NOT TO
DO STUFF
LIKE THAT
ANYMORE,
SO...

...IF IT'S
OKAY
WITH
YOU...

...COULD WE
MAYBE START
SEEING EACH
OTHER? JUST
AS FRIENDS?
WELL, AT
FIRST, ANYWAY?







I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!!

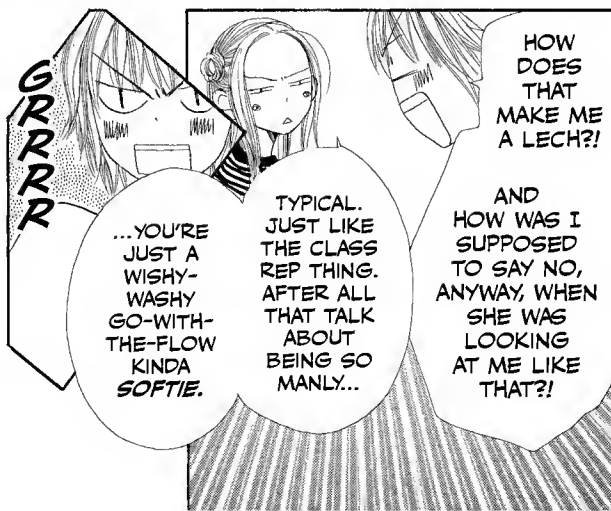
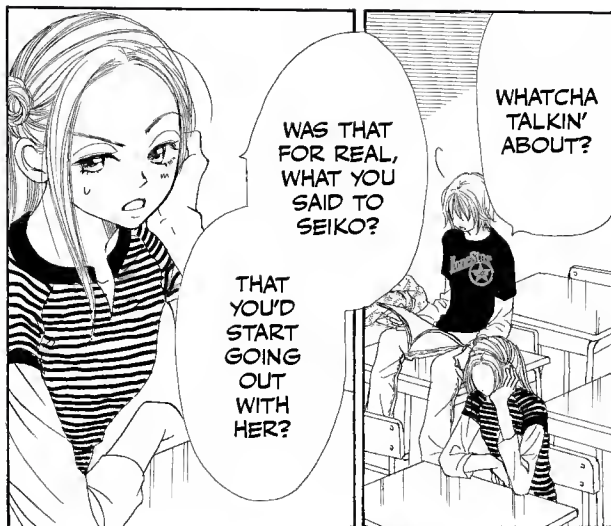


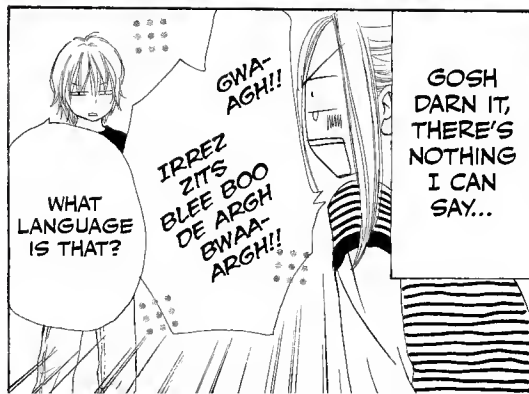
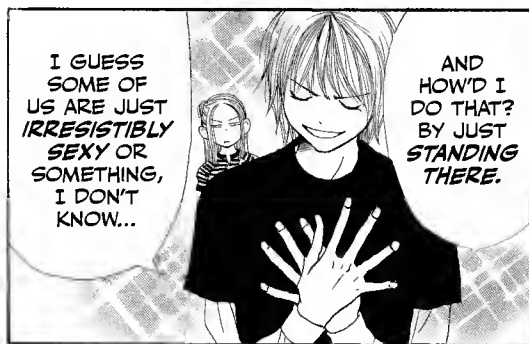
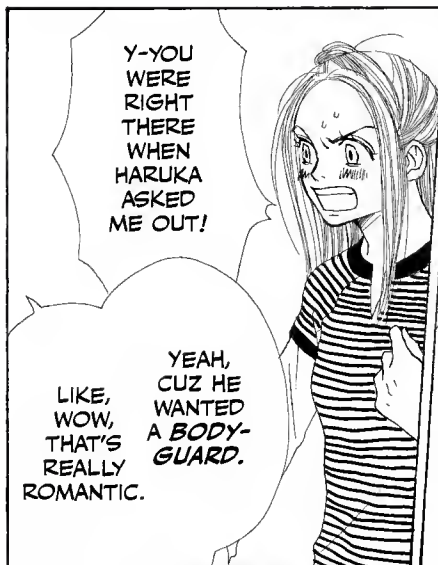
This summer went by real fast 'cuz I was so busy doing all kinds of stuff. Like going to see a lot of bands. The Ulfuls have been doing this big outdoor show every summer for the past two or three years, in Osaka only, and I never miss that...except last year I did, because of work, so this year I made up for it by going nuts for two years' worth. Every time I go to that, I'm like, "I am so glad I'm from Osaka!!" Those guys electrify me. bzz bzz bzz

The only time I have any energy is when I go to concerts. < sigh > umph.

Oh, and the other day I went to this outdoor festival called "Rush Ball 2002" where they had bands playing all day from around noon until 8 p.m. or so. That's a lot of bands. So I only went around halfway through, in the late afternoon.

What a slacker! But I got to see lots of people I really love, like Tamio Okuda and Bump of Chicken and Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra, all in one day, so that was pretty great.





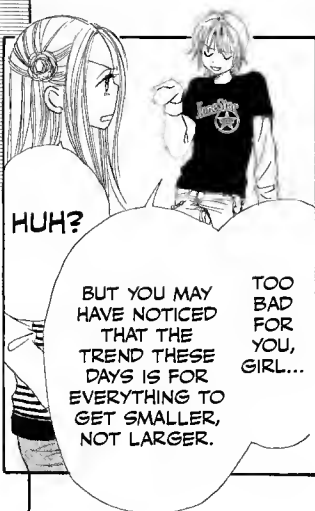


OUR
TIME
HAS
COME!!

IT'S
THE AGE
OF THE
LITTLE
MAN!!

CELL
PHONES,
MD PLAYERS,
DVD PLAYERS,
YOU NAME
IT...

WELL,
THE
SAME
GOES
FOR
GUYS!!



HUH?

BUT YOU MAY
NOTICED
THAT THE
TREND THESE
DAYS IS FOR
EVERYTHING TO
GET SMALLER,
NOT LARGER.

TOO
BAD
FOR
YOU,
GIRL...



AFTER LUNCH
PHYSICAL
MEASUREMENTS
GO STRAIGHT
TO GYM

HE IS SO
TOTALLY
FULL OF
HIMSELF.

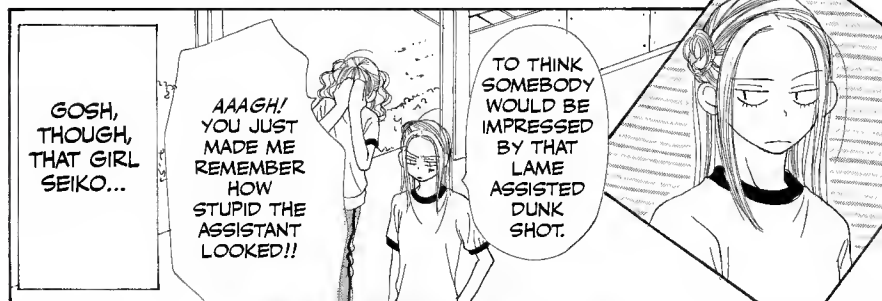


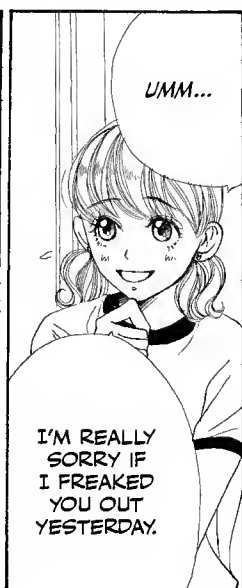
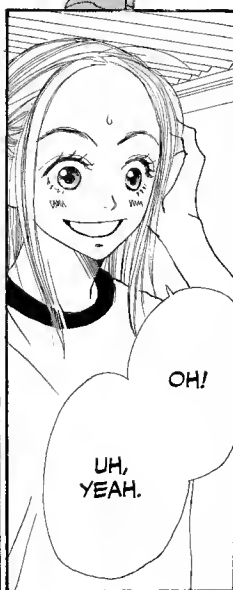
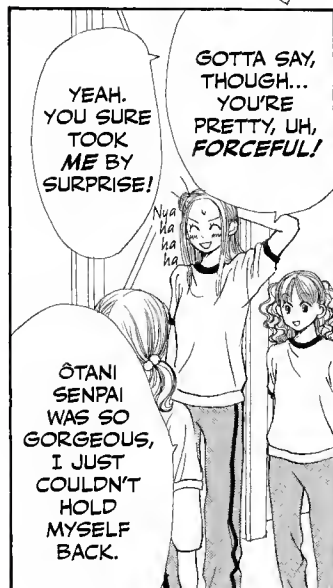
OMIGOD.

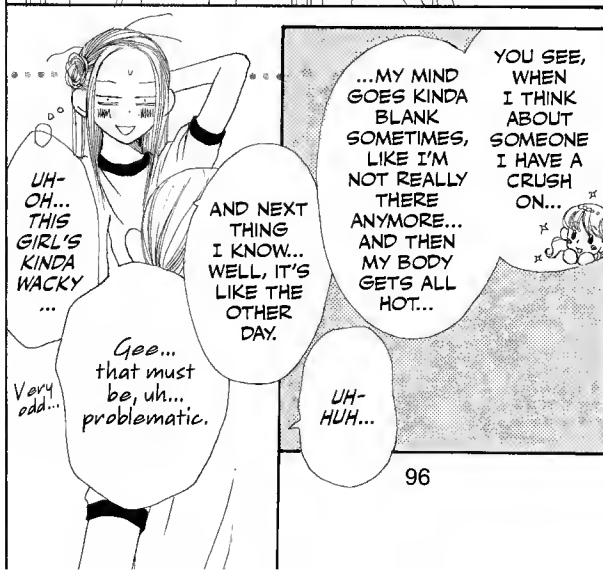
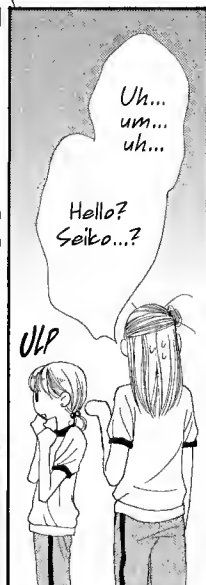
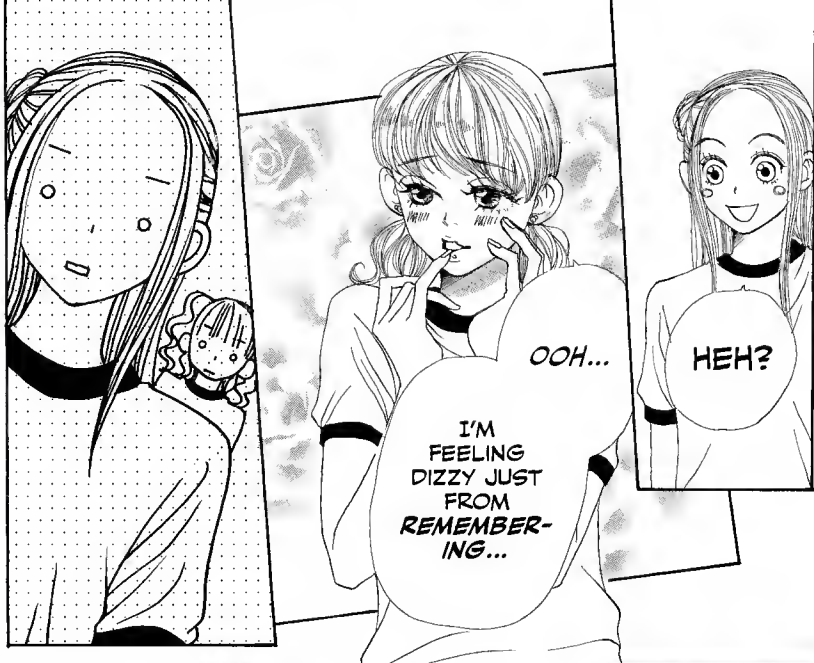
YOU
ASK ME,
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME,
TOO!

NYAR
HAR
HAR

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH









REALLY?!

OH MY
GOSH!
YAAAY!

MAD
AT YOU?
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?!

HE WAS
TOTALLY
STOKED!



ARE YOU
SURE HE
ISN'T MAD
AT ME FOR
KISSING
HIM LIKE
THAT?

BUT
I'D ONLY
JUST
MET HIM
WHEN
I...

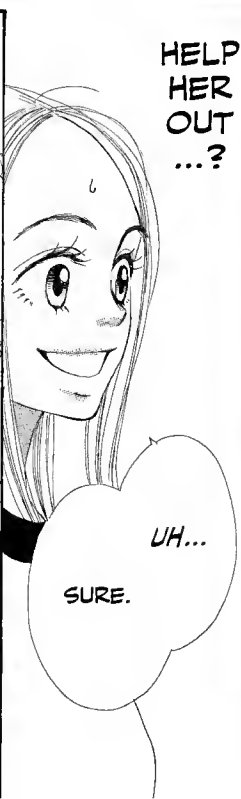


Bzzzz

OOPS!

I BETTER
GO, OR
I'LL GET IN
TROUBLE
AGAIN!

SEE YOU
AROUND,
SENPAI!



HELP
HER
OUT
...?

UH...

SURE.



SO
MAYBE
I HAVE A
CHANCE
WITH HIM
AFTER
ALL!

I SURE
HOPE SO.
COULD YOU
MAYBE HELP
ME OUT,
SENPAI?



SHE
DEFINITELY
DOES NOT
NEED ANY
HELP GETTING
TOGETHER
WITH ÔTANI,
FOR SURE.

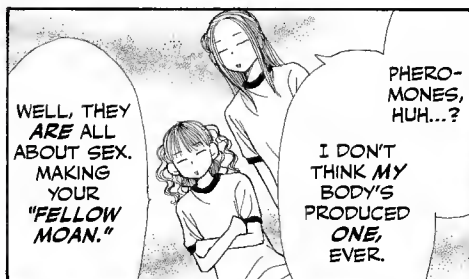
...HELP
HER
OUT...?

Urgh,
weight's
next...

I
KNOW,
HUH?

SHE SURE
DOESN'T SEEM
TO NEED A
LOT OF HELP.
IF YOU ASK ME.
I MEAN, SHE
KISSES HIM THE
MOMENT SHE
MEETS HIM?

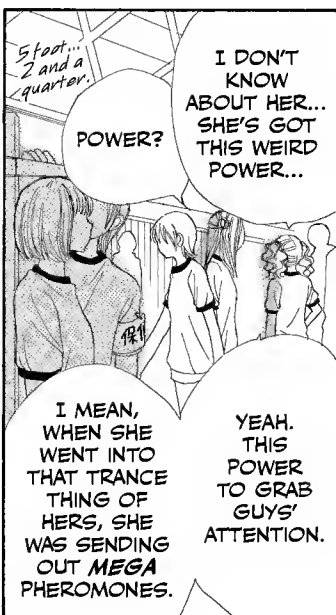
YEAH...
I GUESS
NOT...



WELL, THEY
ARE ALL
ABOUT SEX.
MAKING
YOUR
"FELLOW
MOAN."

PHERO-
MONES,
HUH...?

I DON'T
THINK MY
BODY'S
PRODUCED
ONE,
EVER.



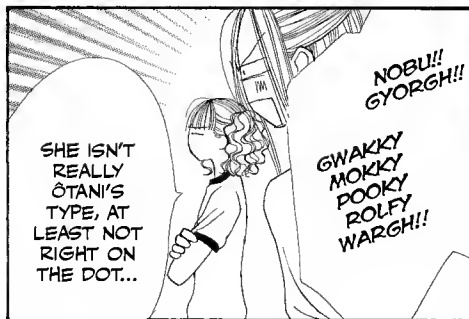
5 foot...
2 and a
quarter.

I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT HER...
SHE'S GOT
THIS WEIRD
POWER...

POWER?

I MEAN,
WHEN SHE
WENT INTO
THAT TRANCE
THING OF
HERS, SHE
WAS SENDING
OUT MEGA
PHEROMONES.

YEAH.
THIS
POWER
TO GRAB
GUYS'
ATTENTION.



SHE ISN'T
REALLY
ÔTANI'S
TYPE, AT
LEAST NOT
RIGHT ON
THE DOT...

NOBU!!
GYORGH!!

GWAKKY
MOKKY
POOKY
ROLFY
WARGH!!

WHY
SHOULD
I HAVE TO
HUSTLE?!

YOU
BETTER
HUSTLE,
RISA.

I MEAN,
HUSTLE
FOR
WHAT?!

NEXT.
RISA
KOIZUMI.

BUT WITH
ALL THOSE
PHEROMONES
OF HERS... I'D
SAY THERE'S A
GOOD CHANCE
HE'LL GO FOR
HER ANYWAY.



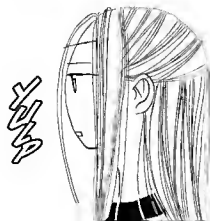
WELL, SURE,
I GUESS HE'D
RATHER HAVE
SOMEONE LIKE
HER AFTER HIM
THAN A BIG OL'
GIRL LIKE ME...

BUT
SEIKO'S
SMALL,
AND
REALLY
CUTE...

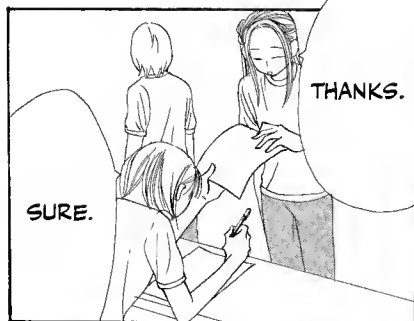


...SHE'S
RIGHT.

ÔTANI
GENERALLY
GOES FOR
QUIETER
GIRLS.



PLUS,
LOOK AT
HOW MUCH
IT'S GONE
TO HIS HEAD
ALREADY.



BAM

FIVE
FOOT
...

...SEVEN
AND
THREE-
QUARTERS?!

LIKE
YOU
WEREN'T
BIG
ENOUGH
ALREADY
?!

Three-
quarters...
That's
practically
a whole
inch...

Uup

FWAK

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
ANYWAY?
DID YOU
GROW AT
ALL?!

YOU
MAKE
ME
SICK.

TA-
DA!

ONE-SIX-
TEENTH
OF AN
INCH!!

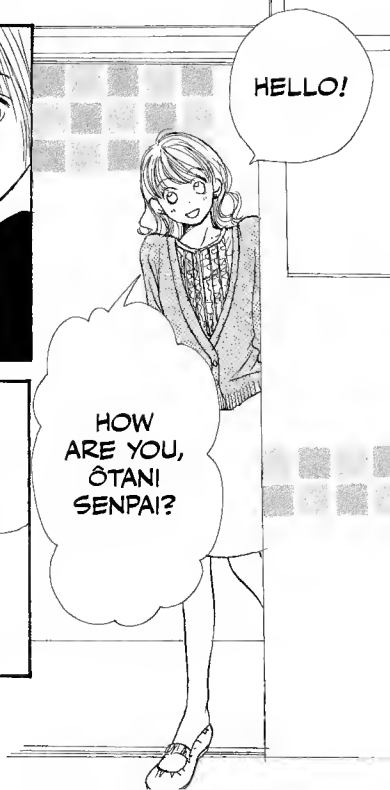
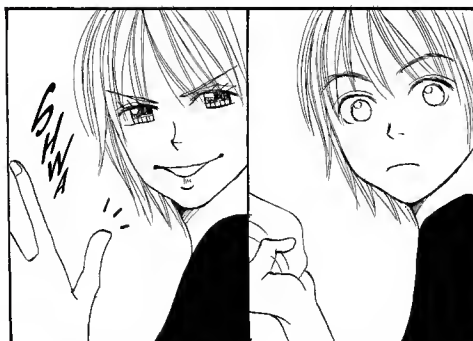
...YEAH.

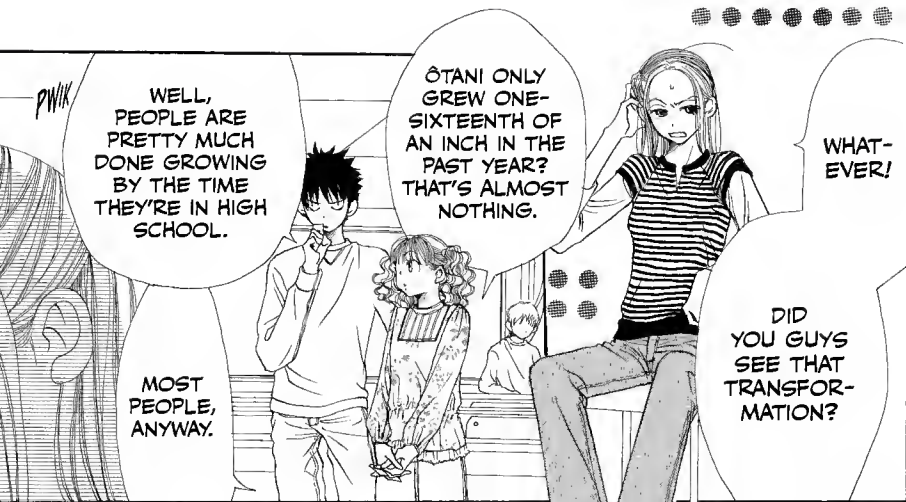
YOU
REALLY
PISS ME
OFF, YOU
KNOW
THAT?

HERE'S
A TIP. YOU
WANNA GROW
ANOTHER SIX-
TEENTH OF AN
INCH, WEAR
TWO PAIRS
OF SOCKS.

YEAH,
I'M
AMAZED
AT HOW
LITTLE.

READY
TO BE
AMAZED?





PWIK

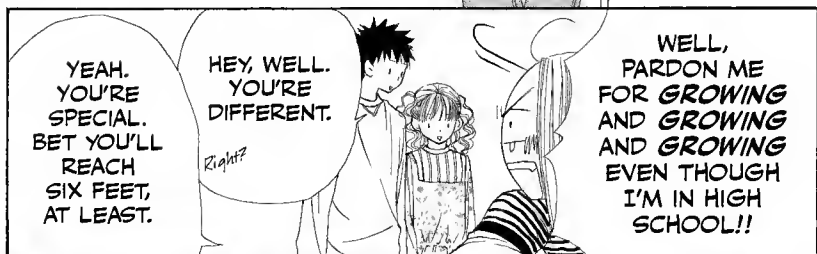
WELL,
PEOPLE ARE
PRETTY MUCH
DONE GROWING
BY THE TIME
THEY'RE IN HIGH
SCHOOL.

ÔTANI ONLY
GREW ONE-
SIXTEENTH OF
AN INCH IN THE
PAST YEAR?
THAT'S ALMOST
NOTHING.

WHAT-
EVER!

MOST
PEOPLE,
ANYWAY.

DID
YOU GUYS
SEE THAT
TRANSFOR-
MATION?



YEAH.
YOU'RE
SPECIAL.
BET YOU'LL
REACH
SIX FEET,
AT LEAST.

HEY, WELL.
YOU'RE
DIFFERENT.

Right?

WELL,
PARDON ME
FOR **GROWING**
AND **GROWING**
AND **GROWING**
EVEN THOUGH
I'M IN HIGH
SCHOOL!!

I'M ALL
KYOJIN.
I REALLY,
TRULY AM.

DO
YOU HAVE
BASKETBALL
PRACTICE
AFTER
SCHOOL
TODAY, ÔTANI
SENPAI?

A
QUARTER-
INCH
AWAY
FROM
FIVE
FOOT
EIGHT

I
DON'T ...
BELIEVE
IT.

VERY
FUNNY.
I DON'T
WANT TO
BE THAT
KIND OF
"SPECIAL!"





I'D LIKE
TO SPEND
SOME
TIME WITH
YOU.

JUST
THE TWO
OF US.
SO WE
CAN GET
TO KNOW
EACH
OTHER...



SURE
DO.

WOULD
YOU
MIND IF I
WAITED
FOR YOU
UNTIL
YOU'RE
DONE?



blush

...SURE
...

...REALLY?!
OH, GOSH!

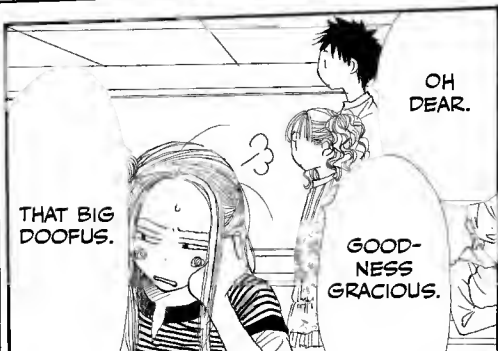
AND
WOULD IT
BE OKAY IF
I WATCHED
YOU
PRACTICE?

SURE.

Anytime.



RISA!
THIS IS NO
TIME FOR
YOU TO BE
SITTING
AROUND
GROWING,
GIRL.



OH
DEAR.

THAT BIG
DOOFUS.

GOOD-
NESS
GRACIOUS.



SO
WHAT?

LET 'EM.
WHAT DO
I CARE?

HEY.
WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
KIDDING?



I AM NOT
GROWING
ON
PURPOSE!!

IF YOU
DON'T GET
MOVING,
THOSE
TWO REALLY
MIGHT GET
TOGETHER,
YOU KNOW
THAT?



WHAT IF
I NEVER
STOP
GROWING,
EVER?!

WHAT IF
I KEEP
GROWING
UNTIL THE
DAY I DIE,
AS BIG
AS KING
KONG?!

Leave her
alone okay?
and
she'll
snap
out
of it.



I AM NOT
ACTING
LIKE THAT!!
I WOULD
DIE OF
EMBAR-
RASSMENT!!

Wow,
she
is so
cute.

MEOW!
☆
purr

BE A
SEX
KITTEN,
GIRL!

C'MON,
SEND OUT
THOSE
PHERO-
MONES!



THERE IS
NOTHING
CUTE ABOUT
SOMEONE AS
BIG AS ME
PRETENDING
TO BE A
KITTEN!

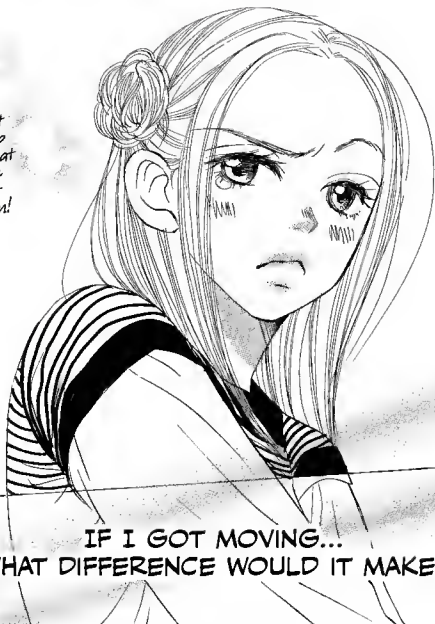
KITTENS
AREN'T
ALMOST
FIVE FOOT
EIGHT...

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO SAID
YOU WISHED
YOU WERE
CUTER THE
OTHER DAY,
RISA.



Uh,
sure,
ha
ha.

I can't
wait to
see that
dunk
shot
again!



IF I GOT MOVING...
WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE?



IF I
DON'T
GET
MOVING,
SHE SAYS.
YEAH,
RIGHT.

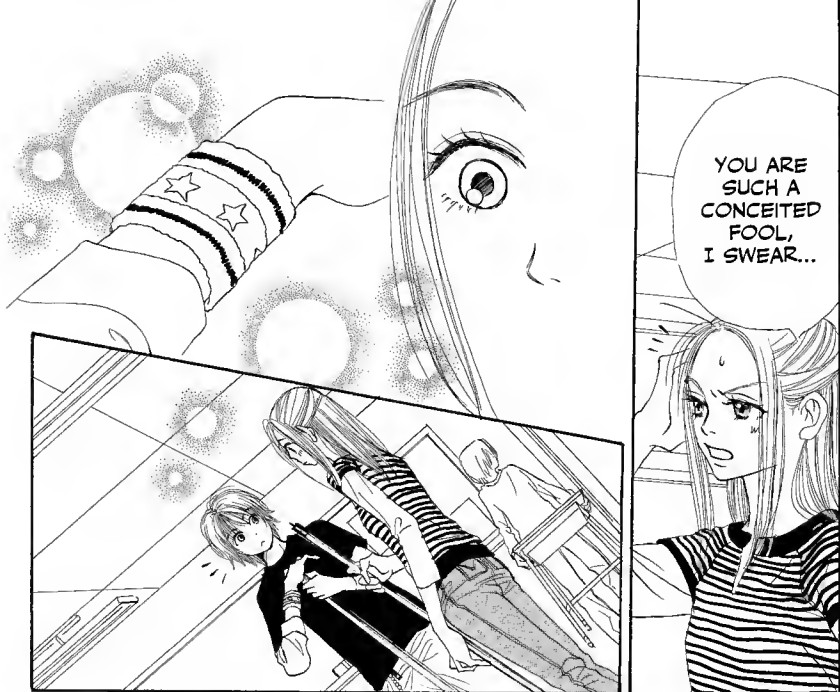
HE
WOULDN'T
EVEN
NOTICE
IF I DID.



BETWEEN
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST...

THERE'S
NO WAY
HE'S PICK-
ING THE
BEAST.





YOU ARE
SUCH A
CONCEITED
FOOL,
I SWEAR...



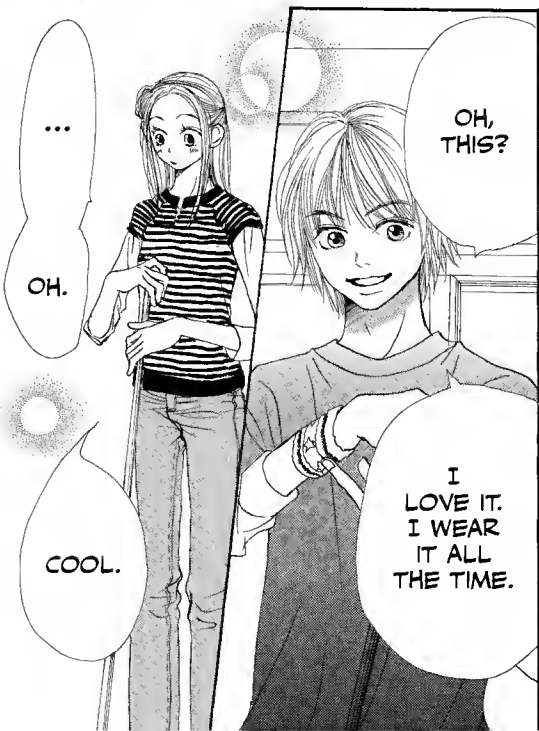
GIANT
MAGIC
?

PLUS, WHO
KNOWS,
SOME GIANT
MAGIC MIGHT
RUB OFF OF
IT AND HELP
ME GROW A
LITTLE MORE.

ALSO
KNOWN
AS RISA
KOIZUMI.

SHE'S
AMONG US
IN HUMAN
FORM, BUT
ACTUALLY
SHE'S A
GIANT FROM
THE LAND
OF THE
FREAKS.

YUP.
I GOT
THIS
FROM A
GIANT,
SEE.



...

OH.

COOL.

OH,
THIS?

I
LOVE IT.
I WEAR
IT ALL
THE TIME.

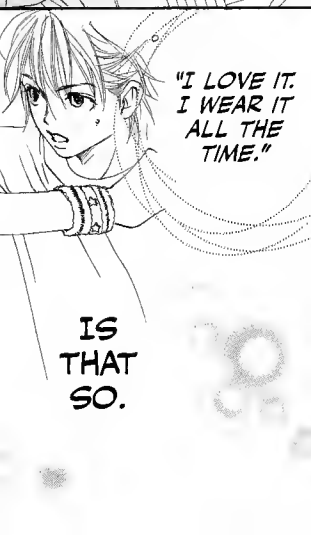
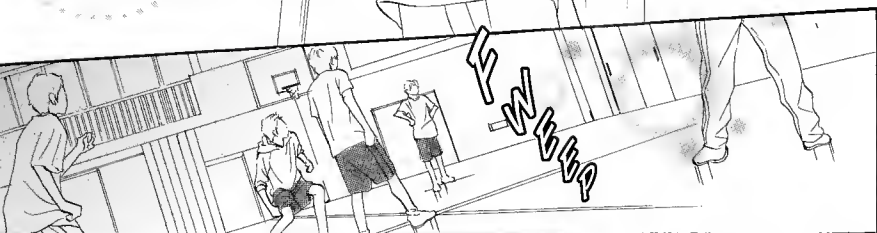


...

...HMMM.

HEE
HEE
HEE.

I AM
NOT A
FREAK!!



"I LOVE IT.
I WEAR IT
ALL THE
TIME."

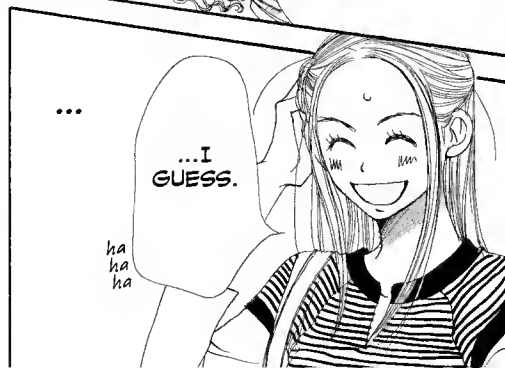
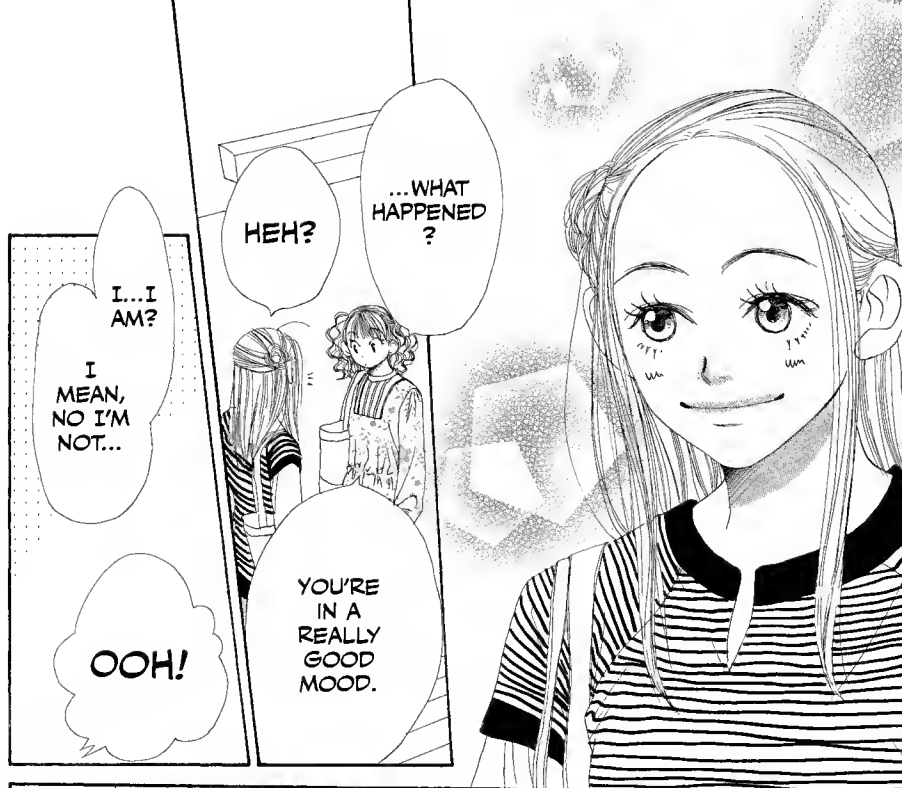
IS
THAT
SO.

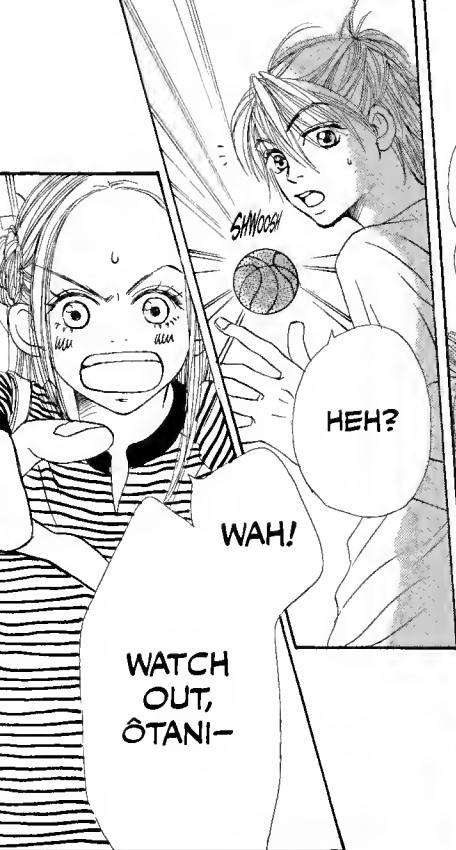


WELL.
HUH.

BWOOP

KUP





SANNOOH

HEH?

WAH!

WATCH
OUT,
ÔTANI-



GO,
ÔTANI
SEMPAI!
YOU'RE
THE
BEST!!

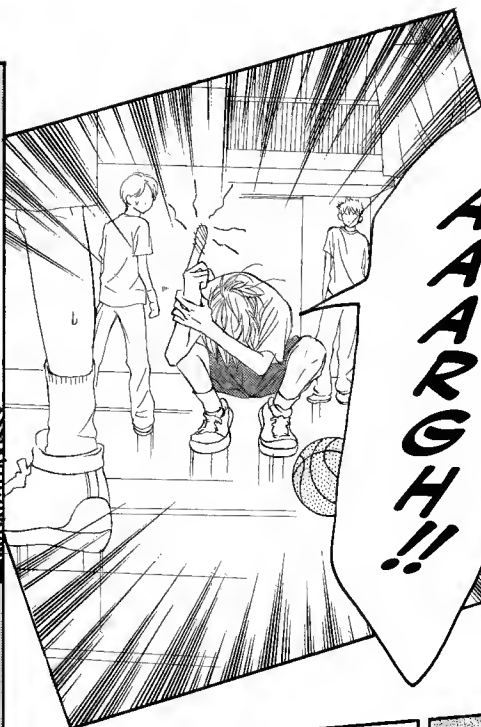
WOW,
SHE IS
TOTALLY
NUTS
ABOUT
HIM.

Uh-
oh...



K
A
T
O
R

K
R
U
N

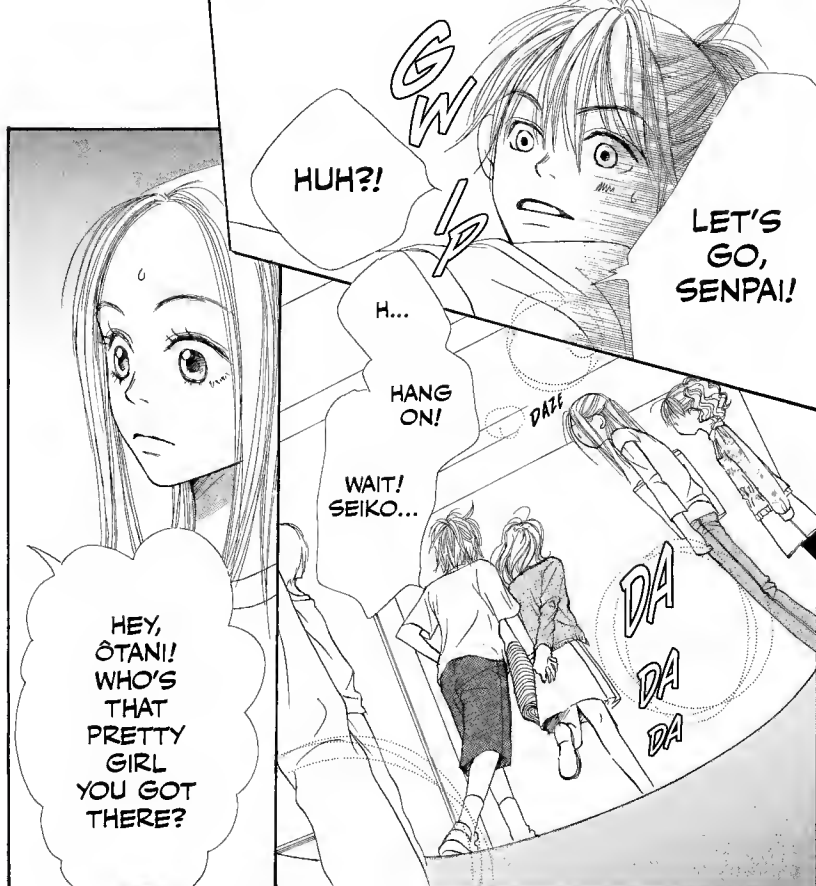


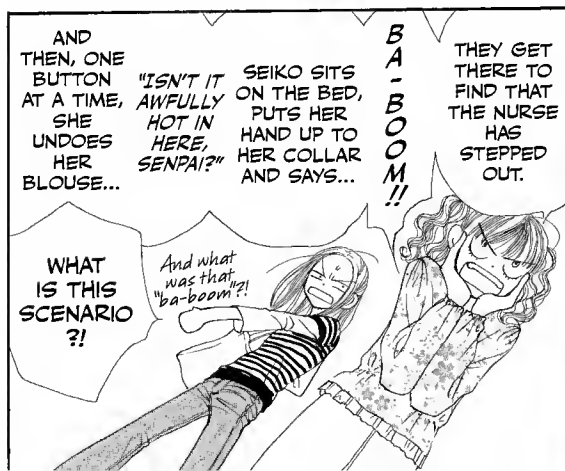
A A A R G H !!

O W W !



WAIT
A SEC.







SEE?
I KNEW
IT.

THAT'S
WHAT
EVERY-
BODY
THINKS.

A CUTE
LITTLE GIRL
LIKE SEIKO
GOES WAY
BETTER WITH
OTANI THAN
A GIANT
LIKE ME.

OMIGOD,
SO WHO
WAS
THAT GIRL
JUST NOW,
ANYWAY?!

HUH?

SEE HIM
WITH A TINY
LITTLE GIRL
LIKE THAT,
THOUGH, AND
HE LOOKS
TOTALLY
NORMAL.

USUALLY
YOU SEE HIM
HANGING
OUT WITH
THAT TALL
ONE WHO...

OH.

UH, UM,
SENPAI!

"ARE YOU
GUYS
GOING
OUT?"



"WE SEE YOU
TOGETHER
WITH ÔTANI-KUN
ALL THE TIME,
AND WERE
WONDERING..."

MAYBE
PROBABLY.

YOU
THINK
HE'S
GOING
OUT
WITH
HER?

No
waaaay.



WHAT'RE
WE GONNA
DO AFTER
SCHOOL
IF HE HAS
A GIRL-
FRIEND?

"SEE? AS IF
ÔTANI-KUN
WOULD BE
DATING
SOMEONE
THAT TALL!"



IF IT'S
ME AND
ÔTANI,
THEY SAY
"AS IF."

FINE.
WHO
CARES?
I'M JUST
A GIANT
FROM
THE LAND
OF THE
FREAKS.

BUT
IF IT'S
SEIKO
AND
ÔTANI,
THEY SAY
"MAYBE
PROBABLY."

A
GIRL
AS
BIG
AS
ME...

rush
rush

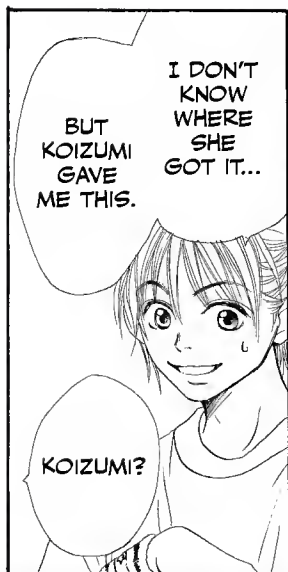
HERE
YOU
GO!
ALL
DONE!
♡

YEAH...

FWAP

YOU
NEED TO
STAY IN
BED AND
REST!

UH-
UH!



BUT
KOIZUMI
GAVE
ME THIS.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
SHE
GOT IT...

KOIZUMI?



THAT
WRISTBAND
YOU'RE
WEARING
IS SO
CUTE!

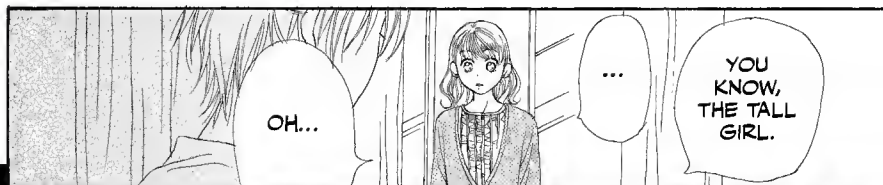
I SAW
THE SAME
ONE IN THE
STORE THE
OTHER DAY,
AND ALMOST
BOUGHT IT-

HUH?!

OH, YOU
MEAN
THIS?



OOH!



OH...

...

YOU
KNOW,
THE TALL
GIRL.



SLINK

YEAH, I
GUESS-
BUT JUST
SO YOU KNOW,
WE AREN'T
GOING OUT
OR ANYTHING
LIKE...



TOES

...SEEM
TO BE
REALLY
CLOSE.



...THE
TWO OF
YOU...



WILL YOU
JUST CUT
IT OUT,
NOBU?!

AND THEN
SLOWLY,
SEIKO
UNDID YET
ANOTHER
BUTTON...

IT'S
NOT LIKE
HE WAS
BLEEDING
OR ANY-
THING.

...

HE IS
TAKING
A
REALLY
LONG
TIME,
THOUGH.

WAIT
A SEC!

WHAT
IF IT
WAS?

THAT
GIRL WHO
TOOK ÔTANI
TO THE
NURSE.

MY LITTLE
BROTHER
WAS IN HER
CLASS IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
AND...

DON'T TELL
ME THAT
WAS SEIKO
KOTOBUKI?!

...WHAT'S
TAKING
ÔTANI SO
LONG?



WHAT'S
THIS
ABOUT.

HAD
EVERY-
BODY
FOOLED
...?



HE SAID
SHE HAD
EVERYBODY
FOOLED,
AT FIRST.
THE TEACHERS,
THE STUDENTS,
EVERYBODY.



BUT THE
THING IS,
SHE GOES
AROUND
CALLING
HERSELF
SEIKO
KOTOBUKI
...

SAYING
SHE
DOESN'T
LIKE THE
NAME HER
FOLKS
GAVE HER.
WELL...



YOU CAN'T
BLAME
PEOPLE
FOR THINK-
ING SHE'S
FOR REAL.



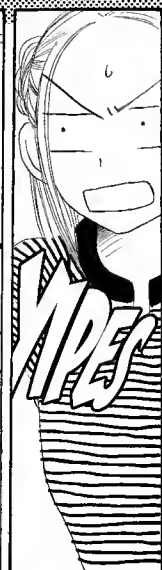
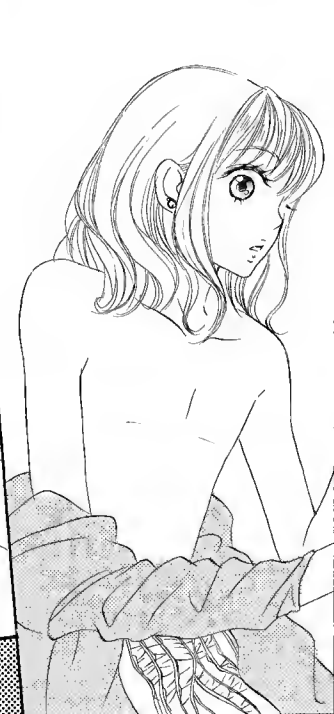
WELL,
YOU SAW
HOW
PRETTY
SHE IS.

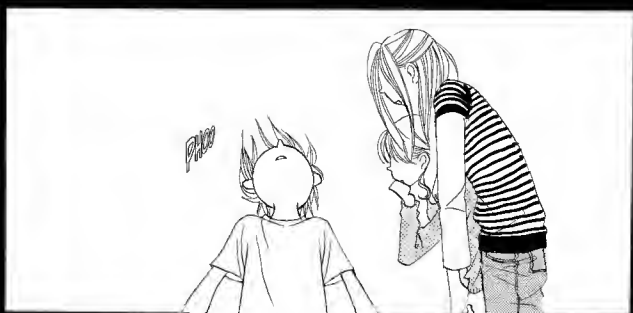


MEANING
SHE'S A
HE, NOT
A SHE.
SHE'S A
GUY.

IT TURNS
OUT HER
REAL NAME
IS SEISHIRO,
NOT SEIKO.







ÔTAN!!

SHE'S

...

...A
HE?

SEIKO
IS A
GUY?!

THAT
CALLS FOR A
NOSE
HOOK!!

DOCTOR!!
HIS HEART
SEEMS
TO HAVE
STOPPED!!

OKAZUO!!

NYUNYUN





**You're an idiot! What of it?!*
Are you messing with me?! I'm gonna tell you off!



CHAPTER 12



PFFF!

I GUESS
IT...HYUK!
CH-CH-
CHEERS
PEOPLE
ON OR
SOMETHING.

KKKH
...!

UMGGH
...

WH-
WH-WHAT
DOES THE
CHEERING
SECTION
DO, ANY-
WAY...?

GPHAW!

WELL,
IF YOU JOIN,
SWEETIE,
M-M-MAYBE
I WILL TOO.

CUT
OUT THE
SNIGGERING,
WILL YA?!

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
ÔTANI?
YOU SEEM
KINDA
TOUCHY.

WHAT
IS SO
FREAKING
FUNNY,
DUDES?!

SNIGGERING?
WHO, ME? I'M
ABSOLUTELY
SERIOUS.





THERE
HE WAS,
RIDING HIGH
BECAUSE
HE WAS
MAKING THIS
BEAUTIFUL
GIRL SWOON,
EXCEPT
THERE WAS
A MAJOR
PITFALL.

Senpai!

Senpai!

HEE HA
HEE HA
HEE HA

DA

WAAAAAH!

HEE
HEE

HEE

HEE



THE
BEAUTIFUL
GIRL
TURNED
OUT TO
BE A BOY.

DID
THAT
HURT
SO
MUCH,
SENPAI?!

...FFF!

TOO BAD
FOR YOU,
ÔTANI.



I
DON'T
THINK
SO!!
BUT IT
DID TO
ME!!

THAT
KINDA
THING
HAPPENS
TO
PEOPLE
ALL THE
TIME!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
KIDDO!

AND I
ALMOST
HAD A
HEART
ATTACK!

T
u
p



ARE YOU
STILL
LAUGHING
ABOUT
OTHER
PEOPLE'S
TRAUMAS?

PSSH!

HFF!

BUT IT'S
KIND OF
A RELIEF
FOR ME.

MFGH!

See
ya!



JUST
IMAGINE
IF SHE'D
ASKED ME
TO BE HER
BOYFRIEND,
AND I'D
SAID YES OR
SOMETHING.
OH MY GOD.

LUCKY
FOR ME
WE WERE
STILL
"JUST
FRIENDS,"
THOUGH.



IF
SHE WAS
A **GIRL**,
OKAY?!

LET'S
GET THAT
STRAIGHT!!

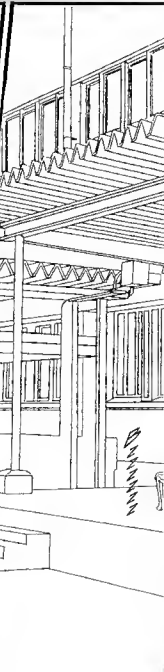
...THAT
WAS
CLOSE.

I KNOW,
I KNOW.



WELL, YEAH,
PROBABLY.
MAYBE.
EVENTUALLY
AT SOME
POINT.

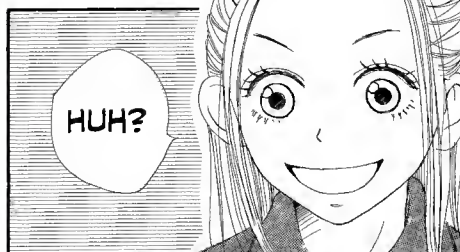
YOU MEAN,
IF SHE'D
ASKED YOU
TO, YOU
WOULD'VE?





I
KNEW IT!
YOU DO
HAVE A
CRUSH
ON ÔTANI
SENPÄI,
DON'T YOU,
SENPÄI?

UH...
YEAH.



HUH?



...THAT
THIS
ADORABLE
GIRL IS
REALLY
A BOY...

ARE YOU
GOING TO
WATCH THE
BASKET-
BALL TEAM
PRACTICE
TODAY?



WHAT
WRIST-
BAND?!
YOU
GAVE
HIM A
WRIST-
BAND?!

Uh,
that
was,
uh....!



YOU DON'T
GENERALLY
GIVE
PRESENTS
TO PEOPLE
YOU DON'T
HAVE SPECIAL
FEELINGS
FOR, DO
YOU?



WHERE
DID THAT
COME
FROM?

N-NO,
I DON'T!

BUT...
YOU GAVE
HIM THAT
WRISTBAND
AS A
PRESENT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

I'M NOT
WATCHING ÔTANI,
I JUST HANG
OUT WITH NOBU
WAITING FOR
HER BOYFRIEND
TO GET OUT
OF PRACTICE,
THAT'S ALL.

ha
ha
ha
ha

LOOK AT ME.
WHY WOULD
SOMEONE AS
BIG AS ME HAVE
A CRUSH ON
A LITTLE GUY
LIKE ÔTANI?
I MEAN, THAT'S
JUST WEIRD.

WHY?
I DON'T
GET WHAT
YOUR HEIGHT
HAS TO DO
WITH IT.

...C'mon
...

URGH...

WELL...
I DIDN'T
MEAN...

...SHE'S
RIGHT...

YEAH,
BUT YOU
DON'T LOOK
ANYTHING
LIKE A GUY,
SEIKO.

HUH?

YOU LIKE
SOMEONE
'CUZ OF WHO
THEY ARE,
NOT WHO YOU
ARE. I MEAN,
GOSH, IF BEING
TALLER THAN
HIM'S WEIRD,
WHAT ABOUT
ME?

MY
GENES GOT
MIXED UP AND
GAVE ME THE
WRONG
PARTS WHEN
THEY PUT ME
TOGETHER,
THAT'S ALL!

I HAVE
NEVER...

...EVER
THOUGHT
OF MYSELF
AS A BOY,
NOT ONCE IN
MY WHOLE
LIFE!

MY
NAME IS
SEIKO!!

OOPS,
I GUESS
THAT
SHOULD
BE
SEISHIRO,
SORRY!

...OH,
OKAY.

HUH?

DID OTANI
SENPAI SAY
ANYTHING
TO YOU
ABOUT ME?

...OH,
BUT...

HE'LL
GET
OVER IT,
SEIKO!

COME
ON, I'M
ROOTIN'
FOR YA!

REALLY?
IS THAT
ALL?

OH, OH,
YOU MEAN
WHEN HE
RAN OFF?
I THINK
HE'S JUST
CONFUSED
RIGHT NOW.

I
THOUGHT
MAYBE
HE GOT
GROSSED
OUT BY
ME OR
SOME-
THING...

WELL,
LIKE
TODAY
...



Uh,
look,
I don't
...

I'M
REALLY
SORRY,
SENPAI.

I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW
YOU FELT
WHEN I
ASKED YOU
TO HELP ME
OUT THE
OTHER DAY.

I
GUESS
WE'RE
GOING
TO BE
RIVALS
FROM
NOW ON.

YUP!
FORGET
ABOUT
STUPID
OLD
RISA!

YOU
ARE?!
REALLY
?!

WHAAAT
?!



WELL,
WATCH OUT,
SENPAI!
'CUZ I'M
GOING
AFTER HIM!

No,
really,
like
I said...



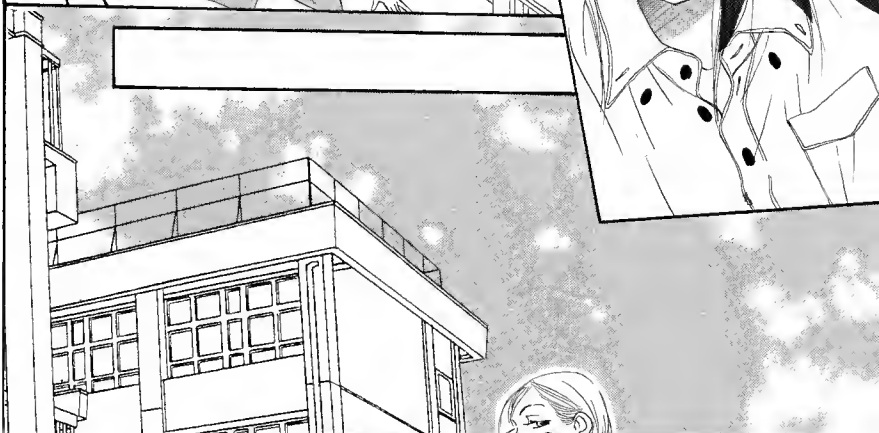
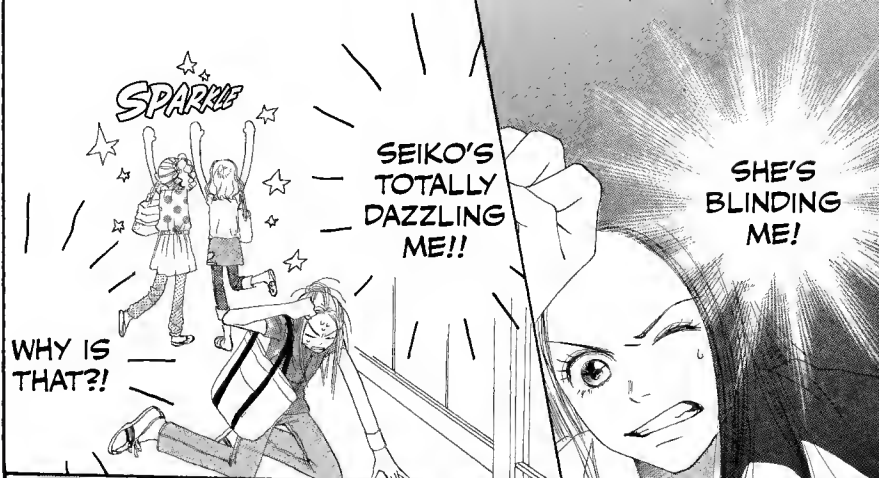
THAT'S
THE
SPIRIT,
SEIKO!!

I'LL MAKE
HIM SEE
THAT ON
THE *INSIDE*,
I'M THE
CUTEST
GIRL HE
KNOWS!

I'M USING
MY PHERO-
MONES AND
EVERYTHING
I'VE GOT
TO MAKE
HIM MINE!

URGH...

SPARK!





OUCH!

SMACK

YOU'RE ALL HUNCHED OVER.



COULD IT
MAYBE HAVE
SOMETHING TO
DO WITH HAVING
A BIG CRUSH
ON SOMEONE
WHO'S SHORTER
THAN YOU?

...WONDER
WHY
THAT IS.

I
WASN'T?
REALLY?

WELL...

NOT THAT
YOU'D EVER
TELL **ME**
ABOUT IT!

COMPARED
TO NOW, I
PROBABLY
WASN'T.

SOME-
ONE
WHO'S
SHORTER
THAN
ME...

Hee
hee
hee

...UM,
ARE YOU
STILL MAD
AT ME?

HUMPH!

This is the last one of these spaces for this volume, but this time we have a special bonus section for you at the end. Some folks who just happened to be over at my house for a visit got shanghaied into it, too. Please give it a little peek...

Well, then, I sure hope to meet you again in Vol. 4! There's still a bit left of this silly volume, so stick around to the end, if you please.

Umph.

Aya
Sept. 2002



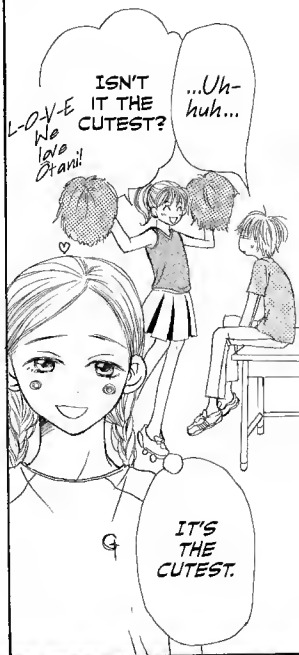
SHE'S A BOY
WITH A CRUSH
ON A GUY
WHO ONLY
LIKES GIRLS.

JUST
THINK
OF WHAT
SHE'S UP
AGAINST.

LOOK
AT HOW
CUTE
SHE IS.

BUT SHE
DOESN'T
LET THAT
STOP
HER.

OH
MY
GOD,
IT'S
NO
CON-
TEST
SO
FAR.
SHE
IS WAY
AHEAD
OF
ME.



COMPARED TO WHICH, I...



AND KEEP
PRETENDING
I DON'T
HAVE A
CRUSH ON
HIM IN THE
FIRST
PLACE.

...GET
HUNG UP
ON DUMB
THINGS
LIKE BEING
TALLER
THAN HIM.

BUT THE
TRUTH IS...

HEY,
RISA.





...THAT MY
FEELINGS
FOR ÔTANI
ARE JUST
AS...

NO
WAY.



WHAT?
YOU
ARE
TOO?

YOU'RE
JOINING
THE
CHEERING
SECTION,
TOO?



UH-
HUH...

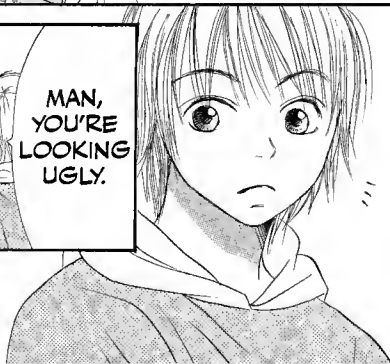
WELL, THIS
YEAR I'M
MAKING UP
FOR IT!

REMEMBER HOW
LAST YEAR, ON TOP
OF BEING CLASS
REPS, THEY MADE
US BE ON THE
PLANNING COMMITTEE
SO WE COULDN'T
DO ANYTHING FUN?



...HEY,
ÔTANI.

MAN,
YOU'RE
LOOKING
UGLY.





COMPARED
TO WHICH,
SEIKO IS
A TRULY
WONDERFUL
PERSON.

WHAT
THE
HECK?

AND YOU
HAVE THE
POWER
TO MAKE
HER HAPPY,
ÔTANI...



I AM AN
EXTREMELY
LAME AND
PATHETIC
HUMAN
BEING.

WHAT'S
THE DEAL,
YOU ONLY
REALIZED
THAT
NOW?



...WELL,
GOSH.
DON'T
YOU FEEL
SORRY
FOR HER?

SHE'S
TOTALLY
NUTS
ABOUT
YOU,
ÔTANI.



WHY?
LOOK AT
HOW HARD
SHE'S
TRYING!

TRYING'S
NOT
GONNA
HELP...

GET
OUTTA
HERE.
THAT IS
SOME
SCARY
STUFF
YOU'RE
TALKING.



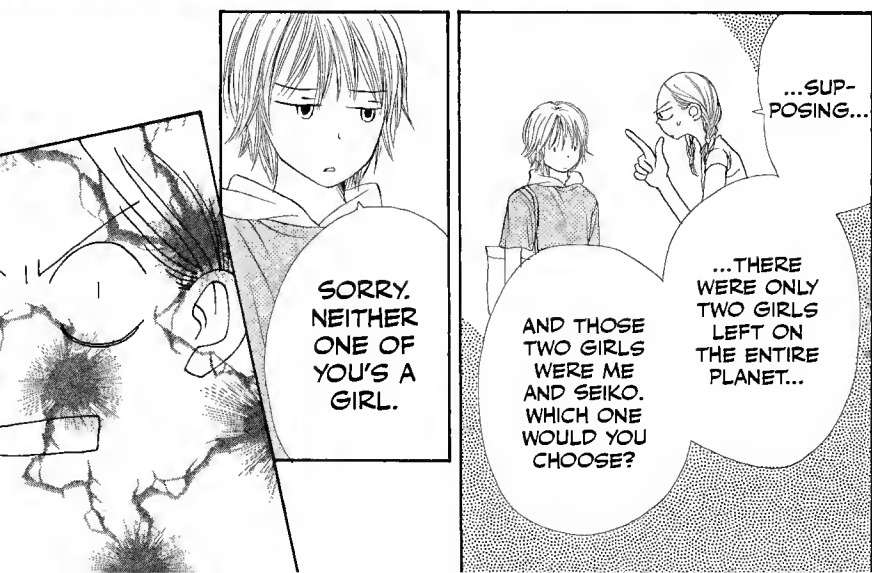
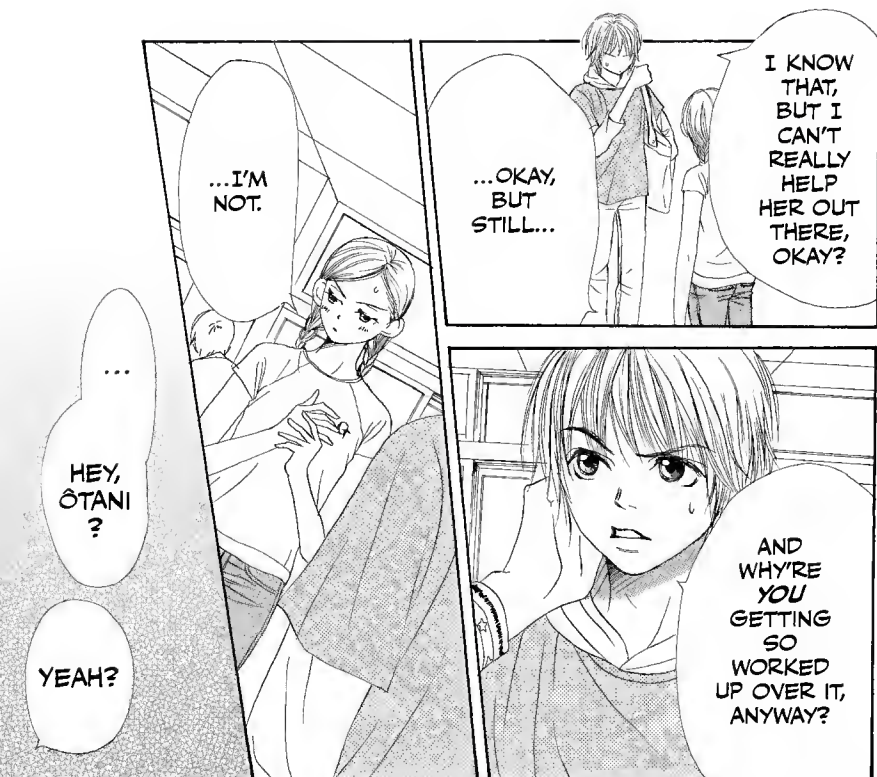
ZWEEEN!

HADDAAWA
WOON
WON
WEE?!

*Whaddaya
want from
me?!

WHADDAYA
MEAN,
TRYING'S
NOT GONNA
HELP?!

HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT, YOU
MONSTER?!





..NEITHER
ME NOR
SEIKO
COUNTS AS
GIRLFRIEND
MATERIAL.

AS
FAR AS
ÔTANI'S
CON-
CERNED
...

YOW WCH!

HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT, YOU
MONSTER?!

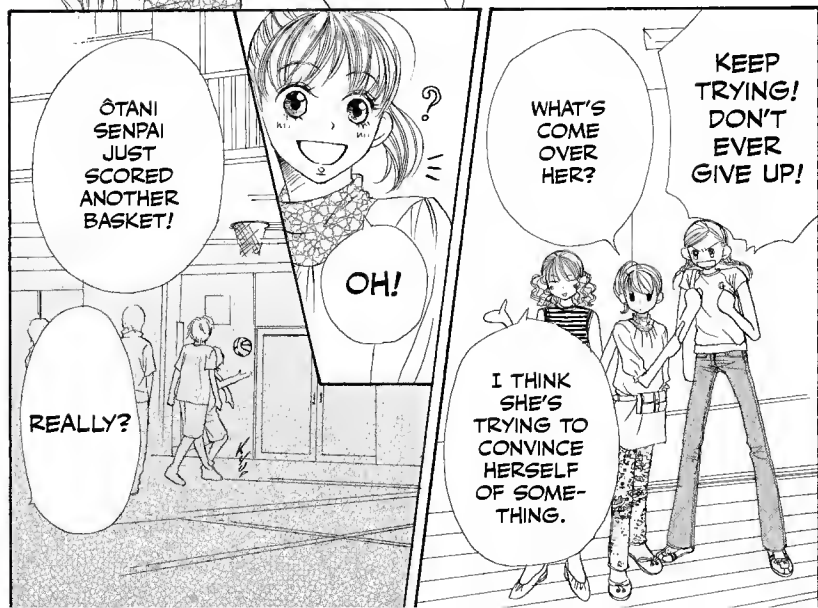


HUH?

DON'T
GIVE
UP!!

BUT
WATCHING
SEIKO KEEP
TRYING,
ANYWAY...

...MAKES
ME WANT
TO CHEER
HER ON.



ÔTANI
SENPAI
JUST
SCORED
ANOTHER
BASKET!

OH!

REALLY?

WHAT'S
COME
OVER
HER?

KEEP
TRYING!
DON'T
EVER
GIVE UP!

I THINK
SHE'S
TRYING TO
CONVINCE
HERSELF
OF SOME-
THING.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

ÔTANI
SENPAI'S
TOTALLY
HUNKY!
HE'S COOL,
HE'S
GORGEOUS,
HE'S
GREAT!

I MEAN,
WHY NOT
SOMEBODY
HUNKIER?
YOU KNOW,
MORE BUILT
OR SOME-
THING.

YOU
KNOW,
I'VE
BEEN
WONDER-
ING...

WHY'S
IT ÔTANI
FOR
YOU?

HE IS
SOOOOO
COOL!

WHAT ARE
SOME OF
THE THINGS
YOU LOVE
MOST
ABOUT HIM,
SENPAI?

NGH?!

RIGHT,
SENPAI?

...YEAH,
I
GUESS...

HE'S A
PRETTY
GREAT
GUY.

"IT DOESN'T
MATTER
IF YOU'RE
SHORT!
IF YOU
WANNA PLAY
BASKETBALL,
WE WANT
YOU ON
THE TEAM!"

I
REALLY
LOVED...

IT MADE
ME FEEL
THAT HE
WAS A BIG
ENOUGH
PERSON, IN
HIS HEART,
TO ACCEPT
ME JUST
THE WAY
I AM.

...WHAT
HE SAID
AT THAT
CLUBS-
AND-TEAMS
EVENT IN
THE GYM
THAT DAY.

HUH?!

I,
WELL,
GEE...

This is a
total mess.

TPP

TPP

SO WHEN I'M ALL
READY TO BRING
THEM UP FRONT,
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE,
"YOU GOTTA
STRAIGHTEN THEM!"
AND GETS REALLY,
REALLY FUSSY
ABOUT MAKING
SURE ALL THE
CORNERS ARE
LINED UP.

OKAY, AS
CLASS REPS
WE HAVE TO
GO AROUND
COLLECTING
QUESTION-
NAIRES
AND STUFF,
RIGHT?

HE IS,
ISN'T
HE?!
I JUST
KNEW
IT!

IN
WHAT
WAYS?!

WELL,
LET'S
SEE...

AND...

SAY HE BUYS
SOMETHING
FOR 700 YEN
AND DOESN'T HAVE
ENOUGH COINS.
HE'LL PAY 1,200 SO
HE CAN GET JUST
ONE COIN BACK IN
CHANGE, LIKE SOME
OLD LADY AT THE
SUPERMARKET.

Here you go,
500 yen in
change.

I MEAN,
DO **REAL**
MEN **CARE**
ABOUT STUFF
LIKE THAT?
NO, THEY GIVE
A 1,000 YEN
BILL AND TAKE
300 YEN IN
CHANGE.

What's
so manly
about
getting
weighed
down with
coins?

LEAVE
ME
ALONE,
WILL
YA?

TOY

SO YOU
AREN'T
DONE.

I
KNOW.

ARE YOU
DONE WITH
PRACTICE?

...YEAH.
THE
CHEERING
SECTION
NEEDS
THE GYM
NOW FOR
PRACTICE,
RIGHT?

WHUMP

OOH!
ÔTANI
SENPAI!





HE'S BEEN WANTING TO DO THE CHEERING THING SINCE LAST YEAR.

WHY'S HE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD?

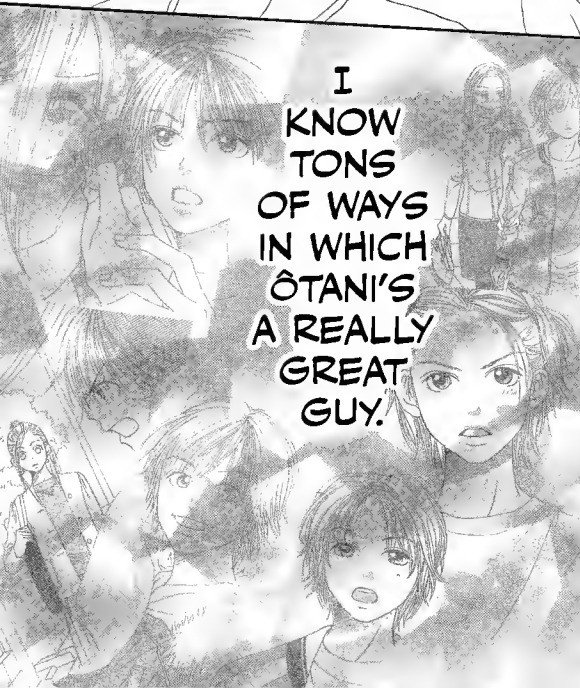
TUMP

MAN, AM I A BUSY GUY...

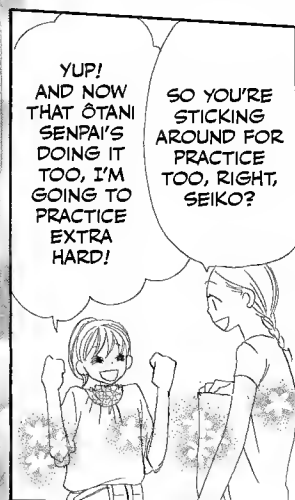
Is what my darlin' told me



All right, let's get started!



I KNOW TONS OF WAYS IN WHICH ÔTANI'S A REALLY GREAT GUY.



YUP! AND NOW THAT ÔTANI SENPAI'S DOING IT TOO, I'M GOING TO PRACTICE EXTRA HARD!

SO YOU'RE STICKING AROUND FOR PRACTICE TOO, RIGHT, SEIKO?



HE'S
SUCH A
GREAT GUY,
I HARDLY
EVEN
NOTICE HIS
HEIGHT.



AND,
JUST LIKE
SEIKO...



...HEY,
SEIKO?

...I
REALLY...
WELL...

UMM...

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE...







THERE'S
NO WAY
YOU'RE
GOING
OUT WITH
HIM, ARE
YOU?



YOU KNOW
HOW THE
OTHER DAY
YOU SAID YOU
MIGHT BE
ÔTANI-KUN'S
GIRLFRIEND
SOON?

OH
GOD,
IT'S
THEM
AGAIN...

Who
are they,
anyway....



BUT I
DO HAVE
A HUGE
CRUSH
ON HIM.



NO,
I'M
NOT.



SEE?
AS IF
THEY'D BE
GOING
OUT, YOU
GUYS!

OH, OKAY.
WELL,
THANKS!

See
ya!



...SURE.

HEY!!

"SEE? AS IF
ÔTANI-KUN
WOULD BE
DATING
SOMEONE
THAT TALL!"





WHAT
?!

IT'S OKAY.
IT DOESN'T
BOTHER
ME AT ALL.
REALLY.



WHADDAYA
MEAN,
AS IF
THEY'D
BE GOING
OUT?!

SENPAI.
SENPAI!

THAT'S
A REAL
RUDE THING
TO SAY TO
SOMEONE,
YOU KNOW
THAT?!



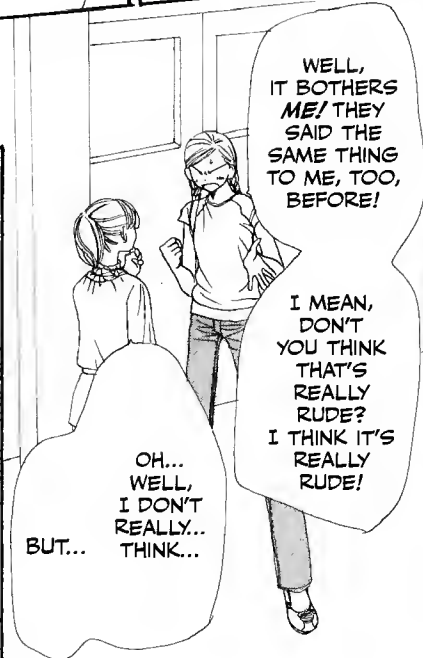
NOW THAT
YOU SAID
THAT, I'M
SUDDENLY
STARTING
TO FEEL...
REALLY
DEPRESSED
...

MURR

URGH

YOU
ARE?!

I
blew
it



WELL,
IT BOTHERS
ME! THEY
SAID THE
SAME THING
TO ME, TOO,
BEFORE!

I MEAN,
DON'T
YOU THINK
THAT'S
REALLY
RUDE?
I THINK IT'S
REALLY
RUDE!

OH...
WELL,
I DON'T
REALLY...
THINK...



SEIKO...

WHEN I
GO OVER
TO HANG OUT
WITH HIM,
HE DOESN'T
SMILE AT
ME ANYMORE
THE WAY HE
USED TO...

I
GUESS
...

I GUESS
IT *IS* REALLY
WEIRD FOR
SOMEBODY
LIKE ME TO
TELL PEOPLE
I HAVE A BIG
CRUSH ON
ÔTANI SENPAI.

Uh...

Well...

B-
BUT...

N-NO,
IT ISN'T!
IT ISN'T,
AT ALL!

AND HE
DOESN'T
LIKE ME
ANYMORE...

I BET
IT'S CUZ
HE FEELS
GROSSED
OUT BY
ME...

SEIKO...

HE USED
TO SMILE
AT ME
A LOT
MORE
BEFORE
...

OH, NO...



HEY.

NOK

WHAT
DO
I...?

...WHAT?



ÔTANI
SENPAI...



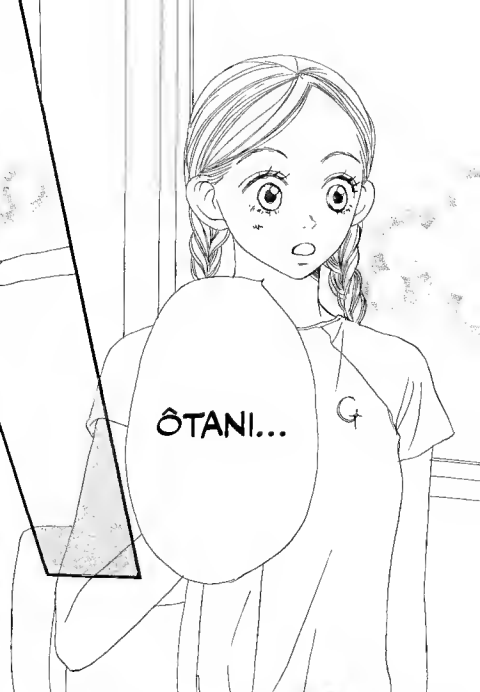
WHAT
THE HECK
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



I GOT
JUST ONE
THING
TO SAY.

LISTEN.

THW



ÔTANI...



OH,
AND...

WELL...

UMM...



BUT IF YOU
WANT ME
TO BE YOUR
BOYFRIEND,
I'LL HAVE
TO PASS
ON THAT.



YOU
DO NOT
GROSS
ME OUT,
AND I
DO STILL
LIKE YOU!



ÔTANI
SENPAI

...

GRIN

THAT...

THAT
CHEER-
LEADER'S
OUTFIT.
YOU LOOK
KINDA...

...CUTE
IN IT.

C'MON,
LET'S GET
GOIN'.

TOK



WHUMP

ACK!

DO ME
A FAVOR
AND STOP
JUMPING
ON ME 'CUZ
THAT CAN
REALLY
GIVE ME
A HEART
ATT...

OH,
ONE
MORE
THING.



SURE,
WHAT-
EVER,
NOW
GET OFF
OF ME!

CAN
I KEEP
COMING
OVER
TO YOUR
CLASSROOM
TO HANG
OUT?!

HEY,
I JUST
TOLD
YOU,
STOP
DOING
THAT!

YOU'RE
THE
BEST,
ÔTANI
SENPAI!



WHAAT
?!

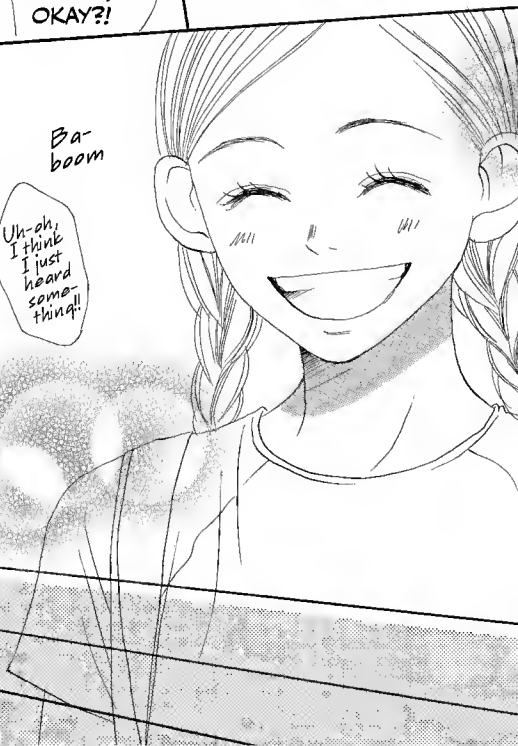
I'LL
COME
EVERY
DAY, IN
THAT
CHEER-
LEADER'S
OUTFIT,
OKAY?!

No
you
can-
not!!

Senpai,
I'm
dying
to kiss
you...
can I?

Uh-oh,
I think
I just
heard
some-
thing!!

Ba-
boom





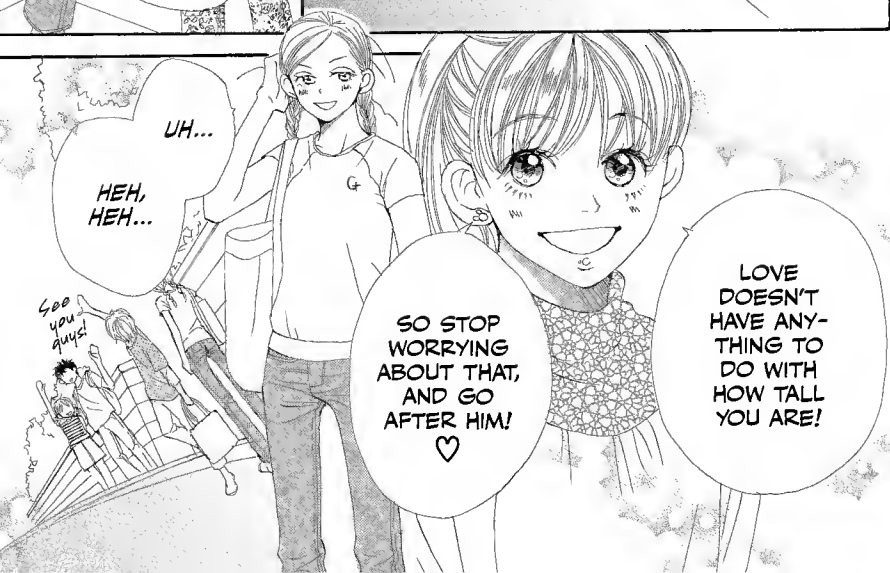
YOU KNOW
HOW HE SAID
I CAN'T BE HIS
GIRLFRIEND
BECAUSE I'M
NOT REALLY
A GIRL?

WELL,
YOU'RE
A GIRL,
SENPAI.
SO YOU
CAN.

HUH?

GOOD,
I'M
GLAD.

ÔTANI
SENPAI
TURNED
OUT TO BE
JUST AS
WONDERFUL
AS I
THOUGHT
HE WAS.



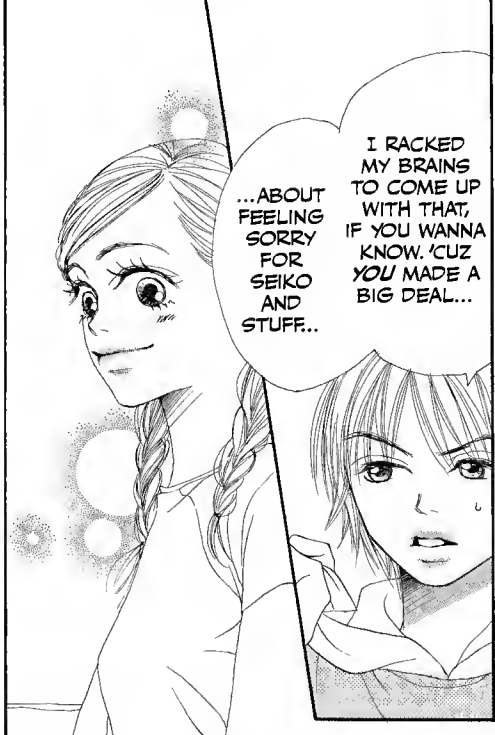
UH...

HEH,
HEH...

SO STOP
WORRYING
ABOUT THAT,
AND GO
AFTER HIM!
♡

LOVE
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY-
THING TO
DO WITH
HOW TALL
YOU ARE!

See
you
guys!



WATCH IT,
YOU'RE
PISSING
ME OFF!!

UH-
HUH.
SURE.

SMIRK

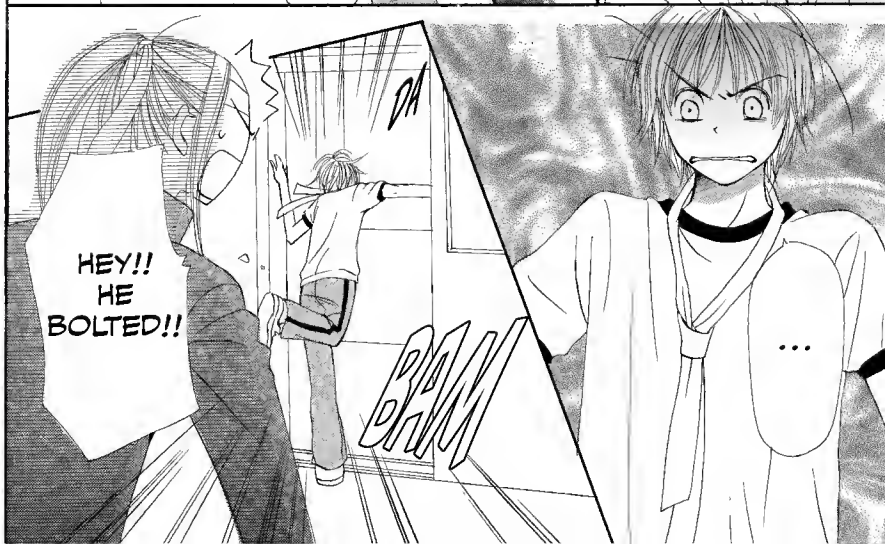
TRACK AND FIELD DAY

WHAT
?!

HERE,
THIS IS
YOURS,
OTANI.

YUP.
OUR SCHOOL
HAS GUYS IN
CHEERLEADER
OUTFITS
AND GIRLS IN
THE BLACK
UNIFORMS.

WHAAAT?!
IS THAT
FOR
REAL?!





THAT
ÔTANI!

WHERE
THE HEY
DID HE
GO?!



LATER!
YOU ARE
NOT
MAKING
ME WEAR
THAT
OUTFIT!



...YOU
KNOW
WHAT?



WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?!
LEGGO
OF ME!
HEY!!

...HE'S
SO TINY
HE FITS
RIGHT
INSIDE MY
ARMS...

...

I THINK IT'S
ABOUT TIME I
WAS A LITTLE
MORE HONEST
WITH MYSELF.

GOTCHA!

WARGH!

HEY...!

WHAT'RE
YOU...!

FWOOSH

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S SMALL
ENOUGH TO FIT INSIDE MY ARMS.

PUT ME
DOWN!!

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A LOT
SHORTER THAN I AM.

I LOVE THIS GUY.

I REALLY LOVE
THIS GUY.





BETSULA

love★com

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BY CHIYO MORINAGA

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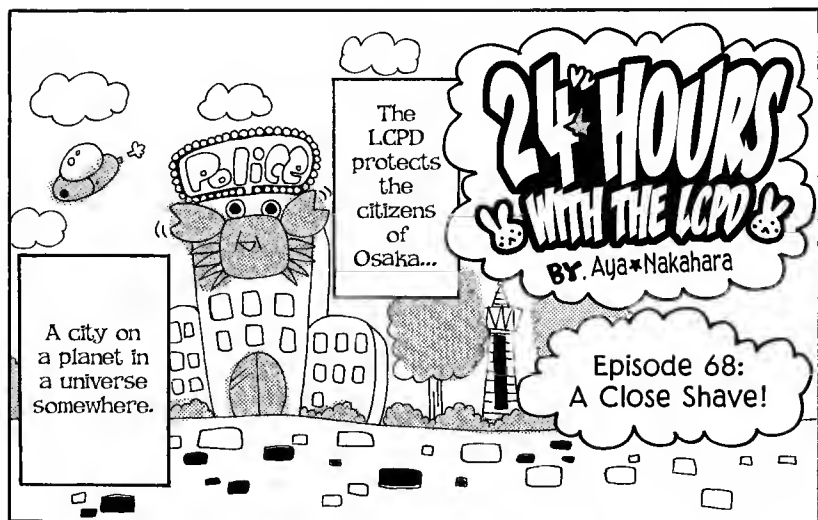
"EXCITING OSAKA
TRAVEL DIARY"
BY RYO IKUEMI

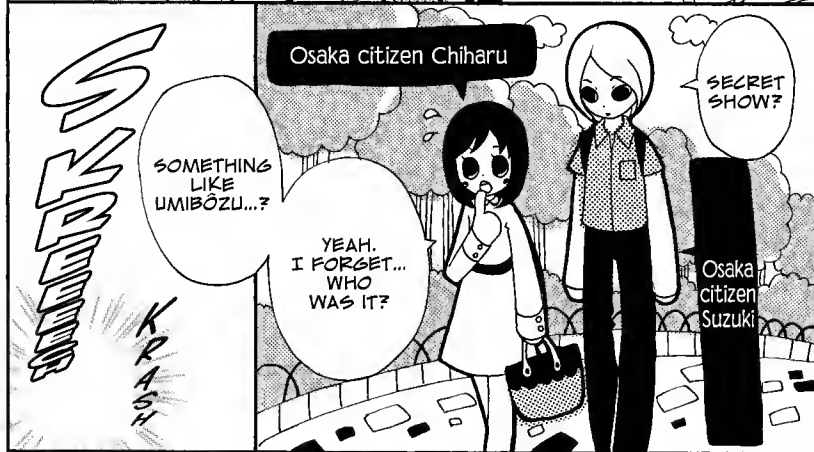
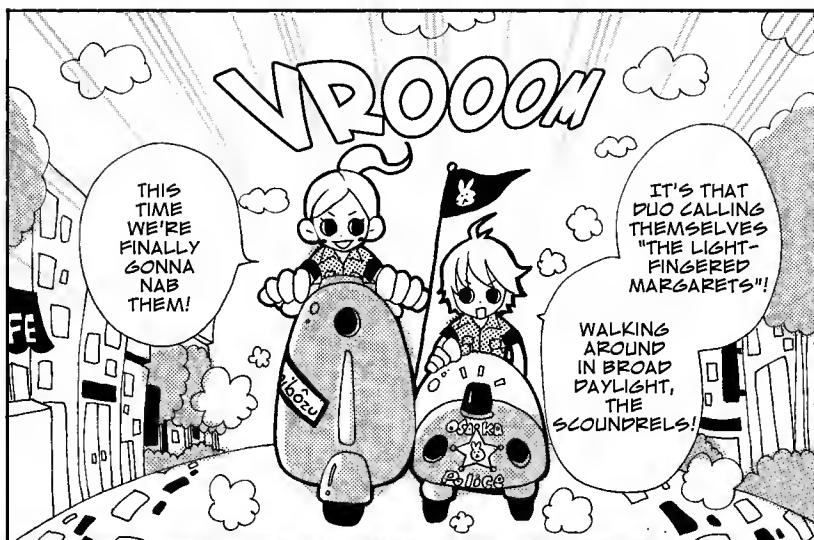
KILL TIME
IN THE
LONG
EVENING
HOURS
WITH
BETSULUV!

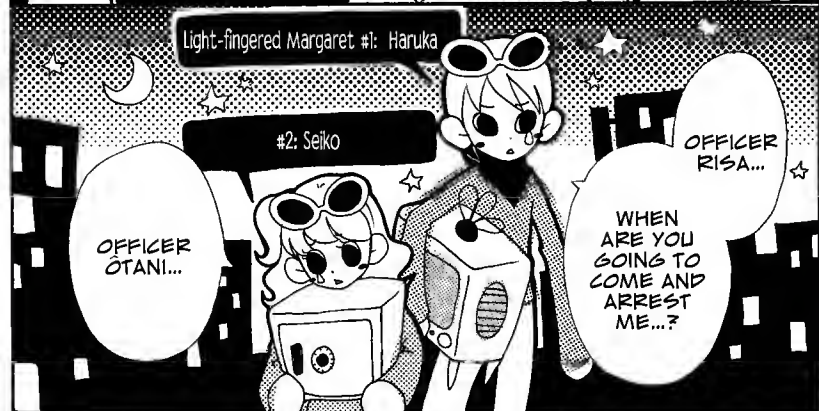
BONUS PAGE!
EDITOR
NAKAHARA'S
EMPTY
ROOM!

2002

11
NOVEMBER









• born in **OSAKA**

THE EDITOR'S EMPTY ROOM

Hello. This is Aya Nakahara, editor-in-chief of *Bessatsu Love ☆ Com*. Boy, was I in trouble... lots of empty pages to fill ha ha ha ha. But luckily for me, some fabulous visitors came by my house... so I took them captive!

Love ☆ Com is...well...a manga where all the characters talk for no good reason in a heavy Osaka dialect, so I asked them to write about Osaka. Yes I did. I was born and raised in Osaka, so I use the Osaka dialect when

I talk. There are variations, though, depending on your neighborhood and age...the Osaka dialect I use in *Love ☆ Com* is kinda heavy and cliched, sorta, because a) I live smack in the middle of the city, and b) I've always loved stand-up comedy and used to tape comedy acts (mostly Downtown) to listen to on my way to and from school every day, yes I was an odd child...but anyway.

When you do a manga in Osaka dialect it's always introduced as "An Osaka dialect love comedy!" so how come if someone does a manga in Hokkaido dialect it's never introduced as "A Hokkaido dialect love story!""? How come? Be that as it may, I love Osaka. I sure am glad I was born in this here place.

Enough already!

Go to the next page, hurry!

At sonic speed!



GUEST
from
Iwamizawa

• Welcome to OSAKA

Chiyo Morinaga

●●●●●●●●●●

WHAT OSAKA MEANS TO ME...?

munch

Umm...let's see...what did I do in

Osaka...? Wait, is it okay for this to be all writing and no pictures?

I guess so. So, it's September 2002 and I'm writing this on my third visit to Osaka. Well, I'm being made to write it. So anyway, the first time I came Aya helped me with my manga. I got the table dirty. I noticed that Osaka mosquitoes are huge. They were so huge I started to think the

munch

mosquitoes I'd known till then weren't even mosquitoes at all. Scary. Okay, who cares about mosquitoes..? Oh, and the places that Aya took me to that time for Osaka delicacies okonomiyaki and udon, saying how good they were, well I went back to Hokkaido and found the same places there. Like, these were supposed to be special only-in-Osaka restaurants?

My second visit I just spent the whole time helping Aya out with her manga... Gotta admit I was kinda shocked by the way she just slapped on whatever screen tone happened to be lying around, and then smiled and said, "all done!" That's right, everybody, Nakahara Sensei just uses any old screen tone.

That's a lie. Aya's dog is named Kozaru-san ("little monkey") and is kinda lethargic but fluffy. He wears a scarf around his neck. Very stylish. This time, on my third visit, I finally made it to Universal Studios Japan. I had to go on "Back to the Future" by myself because both Aya and Ikuomi Sensei said they'd get sick. (waited in line for 10 minutes) It was fun! So we had a great time and came home and when we got inside it smelled like poop... cuz as it turned out Ikuomi Sensei had stepped in some doqgy-doo. So had I, a little. Poop, yuck... very stinky... Aya loves hard-boiled eggs. Osaka's so hot you could die. Hokkaido gets so much snow you could die. We have a snow festival, even. Oh, we went to Tsutenkaku tower in Osaka. We went at night, ran up to the top, took a picture and came home. It was kinda scary. Aya had her back-to-front clothes on

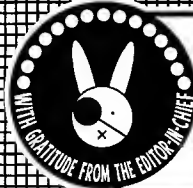
munch

munch



scary. Aya had her back-to-front clothes on

It's not gonna fit... Oh, one more thing. Aya gets flimsier and flimsier every time I see her. Next time I'm going to give her some of my bulk. I bought contacts lately so here I tried drawing myself without glasses.





Sorry about the okonomiyaki and udon places. hee hee. As for screen tone, I do not just use "whatever's lying around." You gotta use instinct with these things, okay? If you paste, then remove, paste then remove again like Chiyo, the whole day is over! Oh, and let me just say that even though Chiyo's two years older than me, she got seriously miffed because I wouldn't go on "Back to the Future" with her, like, you up, skirt and dory cutie, actually. Osaka mosquitoes are so big? Hope they don't keep you from coming for another visit!

**GUEST
from
Sapporo**

• Welcome to OSAKA

Ryo Ikuemi

●●●●●●●●●●

<p>blaaagh hic!</p> <p>(Aya's not a big drinker.)</p>  <p>We went out for drinks.</p>		<p>Yeah, it sure is.</p> <p>Boy, good thing I brought that parasol! Osaka is really hot!</p>		<p>Osaka Travel Diary</p> <p>Chiyo me</p> 	
<p>Don't you smell poop? Did you guys put on Eau de Poop or something?</p> <p>As if. Giggie. Get out the air freshener!</p>	<p>Vroop</p> <p>Aya's sister came to get us and we went home feeling pretty good.</p> <p>When we reached the Nakahara home, Aya's sis said:</p>	<p>USJ</p> <p>Glare</p> <p>Jurassic Park</p> <p>I forgot the parasol!</p> <p>Back to the Future</p>		<p>The Plan</p> <p>First go to Kobe... Then to "Rush Ball 2002" where we meet up with Aya...</p>	
<p>My jeans looked kinda dirty, right at the very bottom. Well, they are kinda long on me...</p> <p>Huh?</p> <p>Jumped into the shower and got nice and clean. Ahh!</p>		<p>I'm beat.</p> <p>Yeah.</p> <p>Boy did we play hard today!</p>		<p>Spend the night at Aya's house... Go to USJ the next day... heh, heh, heh</p>	
<p>Should I maybe... check the sales of my shoes?</p> <p>Wait...</p>		<p>We went bowling.</p> <p>Klank</p> <p>Konk</p> <p>Klaaank</p> <p>I play so much better usually...</p> <p>sniff sniff sniff</p> <p>Both pretty hopeless.</p> <p>But #1 all the same.</p>		<p>GLARE</p>	
<p>I stepped in dog poop in Osaka!</p>		<p>RUSHBALL 2002</p> <p>This heat... what is this... my god, it's hot... and so muggy, too... we're gonna die... argh, this heat... and all these people... it's so hot... and crowded...</p> <p>Waagh...</p>		<p>GLARE</p>	



Ikuemi Poop Sensei... poops, Ikuemi Sensei... Rush Ball was fun, USJ and bowling were a lot of fun too, but it all ended on a stinky poop note so everything that came before that got kinda wiped out of my memory. The sight of you in the doorway of my house, washing your doo-doo shoe at 2:00 a.m., was... pffft! But let's remember, this sort of thing doesn't happen to us every day! That's right, you were lucky! And please do come to Osaka to step in poop again! poops to visit me again!... pffft "Eau de Poop" by the way, is a perfume I saw at a cosmetic store. No, I don't put it on. Giggie.



Special Thanks

Ryo Ikuemi

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Rumiko Sawada

Nana Ikebe

Yuko Idomoto

Hikari Katayama

Yoshiyuki Yamamoto

Keisuke Araki

Nakahara Family

Betsuma Family

and You.

glossary

Page 34, panel 3: Yakuza

Member of Japanese organized crime. Yakuza organizations historically arose from various feudal sources, as well as the peddlers (*tekiya*) and gamblers (*bakuto*) of the 18th century. *Gurentai* are the most modern addition to the yakuza world, and they are like Western street gangs.

Page 65, panel 5: Senpai

A term of respect for someone with seniority in an organization, such as clubs, schools, and offices.

Page 91, sidebar: Ulfu!s:

A rock band from Osaka that debuted in the early 1990s. They are Tortoise Matsumoto as lead singer, Keisuke Ufu! on guitar, John B. Chopper on bass, and Sonkon Jr. on drums. <http://www.ulfu!s.com/>

Page 91, sidebar: Rush Ball

Rush Ball is an outdoor music festival in Osaka that started in 1999 with just seven bands. By 2006, it had expanded into three concerts sharing the Rush Ball name, and over 30 artists.

Page 91, sidebar: Tamio Okuda

A J-pop star who debuted in 1988 as a member of the band Unicorn. He moved on to a solo career in 1992 when the band broke up, and has recently rejoined The Band Has No Name, which was inactive for 15 years.

glossary

Page 91, sidebar: Bump of Chicken

A J-rock band formed by childhood friends Mataa Fujiwara (lead singer), Hiraaki Masukawa (guitar), Yashifumi Naai (bass), and Hidea Masu (drums). They won their first music competition at age 17 in 1996 and released their first album in 1999.

<http://www.bumpofchicken.com/>

Page 91, sidebar: Tokyo Ska Paradise

Ten-piece orchestra from Tokyo's underground scene started in 1985 by Asa-Chang. In its more than 20 years of performing, "Skapara" has produced 18 albums and shuffled seven members.

<http://www.tokyoska.net/index.html>

Page 93, panel 4: Ôtani's big nose

In Japanese, someone who's very boastful or vain is described as being a Tengu. A Tengu is a mountain spirit who has wings and a long nose.

Page 125, panel 2: Nose Hook

Used in the very Japanese nose bandage, where a hook on a leather strap pulls the nostrils up and open to give a pig-like appearance.

Page 160, panel 5: Japanese-style cheerleading

Japanese cheerleader squads are traditionally male. They wear *gakuran*, black uniforms with gold buttons, and wave Japanese fans around in both hands while shouting and squatting *suma*-style.



Err...once again we're having *Love★Com* goods produced to give away to readers, and this time they are the little buttons that I sneaked onto Risa's cap on the cover of this volume. The Umibōzu badge, with the character *umi* [sea], was just the kanji on a white background at first, but with the help of the designer who always helps me out, it's turned into a really cool button. These buttons haven't appeared in the story so far, but I did work them into the manga itself, as you'll see in future volumes! (*hee hee hee*)

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 3

The Shaja Beat Manga Edition



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